Mr. President: What do you exactly wish ?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I want to know whether they will answer question No. 24 in consonance with the promise made the other day.

Mr. President: Is the answer ready?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes. I have got it.

Mr. President: Answer the question.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* (*a*) 9,083 petitions.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Rs. 2,500

(*e*) No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir.....

Mr. President: I understood that you had asked for some supplementary information. I cannot allow supplementary questions at this stage. You wanted some information and that information is now available.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Very well, Sir. We will take other opportunities.

MOTION REGARDING FOOD CONTROL MEASURES—*(cont.)*

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Sir, yesterday I stopped at the question of preserving tapioca. Now, we shall take up the problem of the sale of tapioca in retail. If the Government prepares any scheme for the wholesale purchase of tapioca, I may be allowed to submit that only in certain seasons, this will be possible. In selling tapioca to the people either through licensed dealers or through fair price shops, the Government should take special care not to cancel away the licenses given to the very large number of poor women who eke out their existence by retail sale of small quantities of tapioca. Some provision ought to be made to keep on this sort of retail sales in order to help a class of people of varied castes among the poorer classes who live upon the meagre profits received by the sale of tapioca. I have also to point out to the Government that though I am a very great sympathiser of Sanathenic Hindus, whether the time honoured west coast custom of the serving of boiled rice in Hindu temples, as offering to Gods can be substituted by boiled wheat may be considered after referring the matter to His Highness the Maharaja. If this is possible without causing trouble to the religious feeling of Hindus this change ought also to be taken to be a welcome one in these days of scarcity.

I also wish to point out to the attention of the Government that large areas of wet lands in the Mukundapuram Taluk belong to such big estates as the Koodalmanickam, Paliam, the V. T. K. Estate and also to the State Devaswams. There is a sort of feeling among the ordinary ryots in the Mukundapuram Taluk, that the Government do not take sufficient interest to commandeer the paddy collected in these estates. Whether rationing exists in the families benefited by these estates is not known to me. Among the other paddy producers of this Taluk there exists this complaint. But these people are afraid to bring these facts to the notice of the Government. Hence I take this opportunity. A word about the ban for the export of fish. I realise the attitude of the Government in banning the export of fish as far as it concerns the southern Taluks of the State such as Cochin-Kanayannur and Cranganur. In the northern taluks, north from Mukundapuram up to Talappilli, fish eaters in these areas depend mainly upon the sea fish which is being marketed in the State which has to pass through the British territory. Whether the Government cannot relax the order as far as the northern taluks are concerned have to be reconsidered by the Government. It is fortunate that there are not very severe restrictions imposed by the Madras Government inspite of this order of banning the export of fish at present. The natives of the Northern Taluks may be more benefited by the relaxing of this order in consultation with the Government of Madras. If the Government of Madras takes to the same policy of our Government I am afraid that all the fish eaters, especially in the western areas of this Taluks will suffer for want of proper food.

Then on the ban on the export of bananas. The Government ought to assure the Travancore Government that they will not object bananas being taken from Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk and Cranganur Taluk to the Northern Taluks of the States. The Travancore Government may be requested on this condition to relax the rule on export of bananas and yam to Cochin-Kanayannur and Cranganur Taluks only. We have also to relax the ban of export of bananas and yam as far as Travancore and British Cochin are concerned.

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Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* As regards British Cochin we have done it.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Then as far as Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk is concerned. Even if we allow export to Travancore, not much of bananas will be smuggled to Travancore. This ban may be made applicable only in the case of Northern Taluks, say north of Mukundapuram and Mukundapuram also. Bananas ought not to be allowed to be taken from the Northern Taluks including Mukundapuram to the Southern Taluks nor from the South to the North.

Then the point raised by the Hon'ble Member for Chittur-Tattamangalam in connection with the banning of the export of cattle without permit from the Madras Province to our State have to be dealt with. This has very badly affected the conditions of the agriculturists. I mean, the pride of livestock in the Northern Taluks. We have to depend upon the market somewhere near Tikodi in North Malabar and Vaniamkulam. As far as Chittur.....

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I may say for the information of the House that the matter has been brought to the notice of the two Collectors of Coimbatore and South Malabar and the Government of Madras also have been addressed by our Government making it known to them the number of cattle that are necessary for consumption in the State. We are also taking statistics with reference to the number of cattle necessary for agricultural purposes and these figures when received will be placed before them. We have already taken up this matter.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Thank you, Sir. The question of enhancing the rewards given for detecting smuggling has to be urged once again. I mean awarding of rewards especially to the menial officers and also to the superior officers who have participated very faithfully in the detection of smuggling. Yesterday the Joint Secretary read out to the House that in the detection of cases which involved Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 6,000 including several intelligent detections the award altogether was only Rs. 12 for four peons together. It is no wonder that corruption is rampant among these poorly paid subordinates. The faithful among them have to be well encouraged. The rewards may even be raised up to half the amount of the value of the confiscated article in deserving cases and may be distributed amongst the peons and officers responsible for the detection.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* No, Sir, that cannot be done.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* I am trying to impress upon the Government about the inadequacy of the present system of rewarding. The Government have to soar above the ordinary stereo-typed antiquated methods of rewarding. They must give princely rewards to those who detect. This is the very reason why the Government do generally get only detections in which the value of the smuggled article is small. I wish to draw the attention of the Government and the Heads of Excise and the Police Departments to see that their subordinates are amply rewarded and encouraged for honest service. Before closing, I emphasise the fact that I am against relaxing the present food control orders. As the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri has pointed out, the control orders and discipline of the Food Supply Department and allied Departments interested in the prevention of smuggling requisitioning, and distribution of food stuffs be made still more rigourous and steps ought to be taken to make it more effective. With all these we have to thank the Government that by the timely action of the Government we have averted the sad situation of a modern Bengal in Cochin. With these few words I conclude.

Mr. P. P. Devassy *(Trichur-South):* Sir, just one or two points I may add to the already protracted discussion. I am afraid there is not uniform principle followed as to the paddy to be collected from the respective tenants and jenmies. Statements are filed by jenmies and tenants showing the quantity of paddy receivable and received in every harvest. These statements as far as I understand are seldom verified with reference either to the accounts of the jenmies or to the accounts of tenants or to the pattam chits. I may bring to the notice of the Government that at least in the case of major jenmies and institutions receiving very large amounts of pattam it will be seen that they have got very correct accounts with regard to the receipt and disbursement, especially disbursement on agricultural accounts. I would therefore request the Government to arrive at some definite figures regarding the paddy to be contributed to the department by the jenmies and by the institutions. These figures can be received with a verification of accounts of at least 3 years preceding the outbreak of the war. These accounts can be relied on as correctly showing the amount of paddy these jenmies and institutions receive every year. On the basis of these figures it may be specifically stipulated that every jenmi and every institution receiving huge amounts of paddy as pattam has to pay the department in every season

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so many paras of paddy. Anything short of that may be taken as a dereliction, as a violation of the orders of the Government and the jenmi and the institution may be duly dealt with under the law in force. I believe that any such arrangement will be helpful not only to the Government but also to the jenmies and tenants also. Now the quantity is fixed according to the whims and fancies of the subordinate officers such as the Parvathiakaran or the Tahsildar. It will be very hard, it will be very uncharitable on the part of the Government to leave it entirely in the hands of the Parvathiam or even the Village Menon to deal with these respectable jenmies and institutions in the matter of paddy to be collected from them. I do not say that these officers may be currupt and the paddy to be contributed will be reduced. I do not say that they will be harassing these tenants and jenmies unduly. All the same one thing cannot be forgotten, cannot be gainsaid, *viz.*, that paddy that could have been collected with some uniform principle and basis accepted by the Government, will not be collected when it is left to the whims and fancies of these subordinate officers.

One more point which I want to bring to the notice of the Government is that without creating an embarassment of all trade and business by the Food Supplies Department seeking to control all possible items in the market it will be better that the control and banning of export are confined to certain items of grains and also rice, paddy, kerosene, sugar and tapioca so that the control may be more effective and other kinds of grains and other food stuffs may be available at least by payment of a heavy price to those who can afford to pay such high prices. I am afraid, I have not made myself clear. All that I want is that the control and the banning may be restricted to things that are absolutely necessary, to the minimum number of articles, so that there will be no embarassment of trade and business and people who can afford to pay a very high price may be in a position to get these articles from the private traders and private businessmen. One more thing which I wish to bring to the notice of the Government is that while it is advisable, while it is necessary also that control measures should be more rigourous and should be enforced more strictly also, at the same time it is the duty of the Government to see that their notifications are made absolutely clear and unambiguous. I would say with due respect for those responsible for the drafting and publication of these notifications, many of them are not clearly understood by laymen and businessmen. I make a special reference to the Food Grains Movement Order and the subsequent amendment thereof. It has been very difficult even for lawyers to lay their finger on particular portions of these orders and say if you export such and such an article it is no offence, if you export such and such an article it is an offence. It has been difficult to say this. I mean several kinds of interpretations are possible with reference to some of these notifications. If it is difficult for men of the Department and even for lawyers to understand these notifications, what will be the position of laymen? When it is difficult for these officers to say what foodgrains are intended to be connoted by some of the expressions in the schedule, it will be much more difficult for laymen and businessmen to understand these phrases especially when there are no equivalent phrases in Malayalam or no local equivalents. Therefore while trying to be very strict, very rigourous, merciless in the matter of the enforcement of the food grains control, it will be fair and equitable on the part of the Government that they should also make everything concerning these notifications clear and unambiguous.

I have only to bring these matters to the notice of the Government, *viz.* adopting a uniform principle for the collection of paddy from the tenants and jenmis, control orders restricted to absolutely necessary articles and not for embarassing trade and catching at everything, and also making the notification clear and unambiguous.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, I wish to say a few words. I do not wish to bore the House by a repetition of what has been stated by the Hon'ble Members. One point that I wish to state before the House is that there should be better co-operation between Travancore and Cochin. Considering the contiguous position of Travancore and Cochin, especially Cochin-Kanayannur and Kunnathunad and Parur Taluk unless there is co-ordination and co-operation between these two States there will always be many difficulties. One illustration I shall give. From Ernakulam to Chalakkudi, a distance of 27 miles, eight times a citizen will have to be examined, re-examined and cross-examined by the Excise peons: at Palarivattom by the Cochin peon, then immediately by the Travancore peon, then Chowara this side Cochin and that side Travancore, then Chengal in Cochin and then Karukutti in Travancore; so in one or one and a half hours the citizen will have to be thoroughly examined and even his private matters will also be questioned. I think if there is better co-ordination and co-operation between these two States these things can be done away with. I think there should be free trade between these States, depending as we are for our extra paddy to the Government of India. The Central

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authorities are supplying us and I see no reason why there should be a quarrel between these two States. Besides any member sitting here may have relations in Travancore and those in Travancore may have relations here. Our interests are identical. Only by some political and historical reasons, we are under two Governments. There is absolutely no difference between our requirements and our interests. Yesterday, when I saw the two great Diwans of the two great States sitting on the same platform, I was very much pleased, and I think they would put their heads together and try to reduce the differences and disputes between the two States to the minimum, without being a case of Churchill and Hitler sitting on the same platform. What are the differences between these two States? The Hon'ble the Food Director was saying in the morning that the export of banana had to be banned suddenly and therefore he had to take immediate action, without consulting anybody, he had to take prompt action. I think this is unnecessary. That is my first point. There should be co-operation and co-ordination between these two States, so that the difficulties of the people may be reduced. This is war time and difficulties are unavoidable, but why not try to reduce it as far as possible?

Another point that I would like to place before the Government is that the price given to agriculturists for paddy and tapioca should be increased. Several members have raised the same point. There is great justification for increasing the price given for paddy and other food-stuffs. The reasons are all given by the hon'ble members. But there is one more point I wish to add. That is, the tendency for going to black-marketting and smuggling will be less if the prices are increased. That is another argument in favour of increasing the price of paddy and other stuffs commandeered by the Government.

Then there is another difficulty experienced by the people, because I am coming from among the agriculturists, I know them—with regard to tapioca. That order, I have stated at the very outset, was unnecessary. As a result of that order we are suffering a lot of difficulties. Last year we have lost about 1,000 tons of tapioca, because in Edavam there will be monsoon, everybody knows. Many agriculturists in Chalakkudi and Melur and other places have cultivated tapioca as additional crop, to help the Government. When the monsoon came, early in Edavam, these fields were flooded, and these tapioca plants being only about 6 months old, could not be plucked all at once. So it had to be left there and as a result several thousand tons of tapioca were lost. Then there is another difficulty on account of these orders. By the time tapioca is brought to Ernakulam and Mattancheri from the interior villages; it becomes almost useless. Evidently it takes 3 or 4 days to take tapioca from Chalakkudi or Melur and other interior villages to these parts and so they become unfit for use. There is another cause for this delay. On the way from Chalakkudi to Cochin or Ernakulam by water, there are 7 Travancore chowkies and at each of these chowkies much time is taken for the examination of the "vanchi" sometimes they are asked to show the bottom also, so this process takes a lot of time. The Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam was saying that tapioca can be preserved for 25 days, but I am not sure how it is possible. I am born in a place where tapioca is very widely cultivated and I think it cannot be preserved for more than 2 or 3 days, or at the most a week. So, what I submit is that this Tapioca Control Order may be repealed at the earliest opportunity.

There is another point regarding commandeering of paddy. Several suggestions have been made by the several members, and also by the Member for Trichur-South and also the new member, the veteran political worker, the Member for Trippunittura. The latter suggested that according to the settlement register for each acreage, there will be a pattam fixed; according to that pattam at least the agriculturist may be asked to give paddy to the Sirkar. Now, Sir, it will be found after a moment's explanation that this is not a practical suggestion. The settlement was effected in 1080 or so and the conditions that existed then were entirely different from those existing now. According to the settlement register suppose there is a land producing 25 paras of paddy. Now that land may be yielding 200 paras of paddy. On the other hand a land producing 100 paras of paddy according to the settlement register may be yielding only 75 or 50 paras now. By the strenuous exertion of the agriculturist the land might have been made to yield more, or otherwise it may have deteriorated also. Therefore if it is a uniform principle of so many paras for so many cents or so many acres it will not be in the interest of the State, the land-holders will be benefited and not the Government. I am sure that if this principle is accepted the Government won't be able to get as much paddy as they are now getting. It is true that the present arrangement gives some discretion to the ill-paid servant. That is not avoidable. But these things can be checked. Now according to the Paddy Control Order every little tenant or land-holder has to furnish a statement to the Government. Even after the harvest

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the statement is there, the paddy is there, the house is there and the officers can go and enquire and verify the yield.

Mr. P. P. Devassy *(Trichur-South)*: Paddy will disappear in two or three days.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: The presumption is the paddy continues to be in his custody. What the hon'ble members say that the paddy will be smuggled to Travancore, etc., are all mere suspicions. Anyway the paddy will remain in Cochin State. I shall be satisfied if the paddy is in Cochin State. Whether at higher prices or lower prices our people would get it unless the paddy is sent away from Cochin State. I have no serious objection. Therefore this uniform principle sounds very nice when spoken in the House but as a practical policy I am sure when it is applied we won't be able to get as much paddy as we are getting to-day. Now the principle followed is bringing such satisfactory results and like the British Constitution which is unwritten, the officers are working it. If you make very rigid rules there will be difficulty to work it out. We have got very honest officers, we have got a very energetic Director of Food Supplies, we have the Diwan Peishkar, we have got all the officers to direct and supervise. So, I think thers is no necessity for a uniform principle in acquiring paddy.

Regarding jaggery, when there is scarcity we want some more jaggery. That we cannot get and even if we can get the price will be prohibitive. The Hon'ble Member for Chittur said that jaggery was sold at Udumalpet at Rs. 16 whereas it is Rs. 40 here.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: I may submit for the information of the House that the Government are thinking of buying jaggery and selling it through Fair Price Shops and merchants.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: There is great delay for a citizen to get his card either amended or to get a new card from the Office. I have personal experience and other people are everyday complaining that if a person has the misfortune to lose his card then his rice for two weeks is gone. How can a man be sent to the Supply Office every day hunting after or troubling the clerks. I say the issue of the cards should be done properly.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: I may explain, Sir: the number of applications for new cards are numerous. Every day one Field Officer sits for hours together to attend to this work of issuing cards. Now the arrangements made is where prima facie the officer thinks that the application is bona fide a temporary card is given, then enquiries are made and final card issued. It is our experience in numerous cases that the moment a man finds his card is missing he rushes up with an application for a fresh card and when new card is issued, even if the old card is traced subsequently, he does not surrender it. So we have to insist that, as far as possible, an enquiry should be made before a duplicate card is given.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: പുതിയ കാർഡിൽ ഡ്യൂപ്ലിക്കേറ്റ് എന്ന് എഴുതിവച്ചാൽ മതിയല്ലൊ.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: When these cards are presented at the shop it is very difficult to check all the minute entries whether it bears the same number or the same name. It has been found very often that people manage to dupe the shop keepers by drawing twice the quantity of ration allowed by means of the duplicate card. One day a man servant will be sent, another day a female goes and so on. To check this we have to scrutinise these applications and make enquiries. Of course in the case of respectable persons we issue cards in the first instance on their word without enquiry. We have to prevent misuse of ration cards in view of the limited stock of food stuffs at our disposal. In the case of daily card holders there is a tendency, as the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam explained yesterday, to sell it to shop keepers at a higher price and so we are careful to see that sugar is given only for bona fide consumption because we have got only a very limited stock of sugar. The arrangement is like that. The abuse is mostly seen in the case of daily card holders. They are known to be selling the sugar to other people making a profit out of it. So as regards daily card holders we have issued an order to see that, in suspicious cases, cards are issued only after enquiries are made. In the case of daily card holders there are a large number of people who are not accustomed to the use of sugar and who do not require it. It will be only wise not to issue sugar cards to these people.

Mr. A. V. Mootheden *(Chalakkudi)*: Therefore what I say is you should in deserving cases issue cards promptly. With these few words I conclude.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Certainly.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡണ്ട്, സർ, ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കിക്കൊണ്ട് ചില നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾമാത്രം നൽകുവാനാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്.

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ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നിയന്ത്രണത്തിൽ പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന സാധനങ്ങൾ വളരെ തൃപ്തികരമായ നിലയിൽ വിതരണം ചെയ്യുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളസംഗതിയിൽ എനിക്കും വളരെ വിശ്വാസമുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ നിയന്ത്രണംചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ അസ്ഥാനത്തിലായിപ്പോയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഈ സഭയെ അറിയിക്കേണ്ടതു് എന്റെ ചുമതലയാണെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. നേന്ത്രക്കായ്, ചേന മുതലായ സാധനങ്ങൾ കൊച്ചിയിൽ നിയന്ത്രിച്ചപ്പോൾ ഞാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിലേക്കു് എഴുതിയിരുന്നു, കൊച്ചികണയന്നൂർ താലൂക്കിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം എങ്കിലും അതു് ഒഴിവാക്കിക്കിട്ടണമെന്നു്. എന്നാൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും എനിക്കു തന്ന മറുപടിയിൽ കൊച്ചികണയന്നൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ ആ സാധനമില്ലെങ്കിൽ ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു് ഇങ്ങോട്ടു് ഇറക്കുമതിചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ള സൌകര്യം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു് എന്നാണു്. എന്നാൽ കൊച്ചികണയന്നൂർതാലൂക്കിൽ നേന്ത്രക്കായയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു ശരിയായ വിവരമില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും അപ്രകാരം നിർഭാഗ്യകരമായ ഒരു മറുപടി എനിക്കു ലഭിച്ചതെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. കൊച്ചികണയന്നൂർ താലൂക്കിലേക്കാവശ്യമായ നേന്ത്രക്കായയും, ചേനയും മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി, പള്ളിപ്പുറം, കോട്ടപ്പുറം മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽനിന്നാണു് വന്നുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നതു്. ഏറണാകുളത്തു കൊണ്ടുവന്നിരുന്നതു് ആലുവാ, ചങ്ങനാശേരി മുതലായ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നാണു്. അങ്കമാലി മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽനിന്നാണു് കോട്ടപ്പുറത്തേക്കും മറ്റും ആവശ്യമുള്ള ചേന, നേന്ത്രക്കായ എന്നിവ വന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ വക സാധനങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെമാത്രം ആശ്രയിച്ചു ജീവിക്കുന്ന കൊച്ചിയിൽ തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂരിൽനിന്നോ, ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ മറുഭാഗങ്ങളിൽനിന്നോ വരുന്ന അഞ്ഞൂറോ ആയിരമോ കുല കായകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം മതിയാവുകയില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് പ്രത്യേകം ഓർക്കണം. ചേനയും, നേന്ത്രക്കായയും നിയന്ത്രണത്തിനുമുമ്പു് ഇവിടെ വന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന നിലവെച്ചു് കണക്കാക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അതിന്റെ ഒ ശതമാനംപോലും ഇപ്പോൾ അവിടങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു് തീർച്ചയാണു്. ഇപ്പോൾ നിയന്ത്രണത്തിൽ വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ ഏതെല്ലാമാണെന്നും, നിയന്ത്രണം ആവശ്യമായതൊഴിച്ചു് എന്തെല്ലാം സാധനങ്ങളെയാണു് അതിൽനിന്നും ഒഴിവാക്കേണ്ടതെന്നും ഉള്ള കാര്യങ്ങളെസംബന്ധിച്ചു് അന്വേഷിച്ചു് റിപ്പോർട്ടുചെയ്യുവാൻ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു ഫുഡു് അഡ്വൈസറി കമ്മിറ്റിയെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ഞാൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള നിലയിലല്ല ആ കമ്മിറ്റി ഇവിടെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരുന്നതു് ഡയറക്ടരവർകളെ ഉപദേശിക്കുവാൻ അധികാരമുള്ള ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി വേണമെന്നായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ വെച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കമ്മിറ്റി ഡയറക്ടരുടെ അഡ്വൈസറെ ഉപദേശിക്കുവാനുള്ളതുമാത്രമെ ആകുന്നുള്ളു.

Mr. M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): The Member is not correct. The Advisory Committee is appointed to advise the Director.

Mr. A. V. Mootheden (*Chalakkudi*): The other day one gentleman who has got a position applied for a sugar card. He had to wait for two weeks to get 8 lbs. of sugar. He had to apply for sugar on a medical advice to use some more milk. If that is the case of a person of some standing then what about a poor man? If you want additional staff you get it. The Government may give you additional staff. The citizens should not be put to trouble because there is no staff. They should be given cards promptly. It is explained that they do not surrender cards. If they don't surrender cards it is due to fear. The people have so much fear about your office. That is public opinion. Therefore please try to change back. Get as many officers as possible. The Diwan will sanction; this House will be pleased to sanction. Don't cause unnecessary delay to the public. As regards sugar there is a complaint that weekly card holders alone get sugar and daily card holders don't get sugar.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ കൂടുതൽ പവർ കൊടുത്തില്ലെങ്കിലും വിരോധമില്ല; ഇന്നു നിയന്ത്രിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സാധനങ്ങളിൽ നിയന്ത്രണം ആവശ്യമുള്ളവ ഏതെല്ലാമാണെന്നും, നിയന്ത്രണം ഉപേക്ഷിക്കേണ്ട സാധനങ്ങൾ ഏതെല്ലാമാണെന്നും അന്വേഷിച്ചു റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഈ വക സംഗതികളിൽ വിവരമുള്ള അഞ്ചോ ആറോ ആളുകൾ അടങ്ങിയ ഒരു ലോക്കൽ കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നാണു്. തീർച്ചയായും ഇന്നു നിയന്ത്രണത്തിലിരിക്കുന്നതും നിയന്ത്രണം വേണ്ടാത്തതുമായ സാധനങ്ങളെ അതിൽനിന്നു ഒഴിവാക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾക്കെല്ലാം ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു നിയന്ത്രണം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ നമുക്കു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനെ കുറ്റംപറയുവാൻ തരമില്ല. നിയ

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ന്ത്രണത്തിൽ പെടുത്തിയ കാലത്തെ പരിതസ്ഥിതി ഇത്തരത്തിലായിരുന്നു. ആ നിലയെല്ലാം ഇപ്പോൾ മാറിയിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു അതിലേക്കു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞപ്രകാരമുള്ള ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ നിശ്ചയിച്ചു അവരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ട് വരുത്തുന്നപക്ഷം . . . . . .

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Sir, besides the Food Advisory Council to advise the Director, the Government are contemplating to constitue Taluk Committees to deal with all matters of the kind the Hon'ble Member is suggesting. There are also Village Committees in the Panchayat areas which are functioning as Food Advisory Committees.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞ കമ്മിറ്റി അതല്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ അനവധി സാധനങ്ങൾ നിയന്ത്രണത്തിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. മുമ്പു നിയന്ത്രണം ആവശ്യമായിരുന്നതും, ഇപ്പോൾ അതിൽനിന്നു ഒഴിവാക്കാവുന്നവയുമായ പല സാധനങ്ങളും നിയന്ത്രണത്തിലിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞപ്രകാരമുള്ള കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുകയും, അവർ അയക്കുന്ന റിപ്പോർട്ടനുസരിച്ചു ഡയറക്ടരവർകൾ പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യാൽ മതി. അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യാൽ ഒന്നാമതായി ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആക്ഷേപം വളരെ കുറയും.

ഇനി നെല്ലെടുപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും പല ആക്ഷേപങ്ങളും പലരും ഇവിടെ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. നെല്ലിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഓരോ താലൂക്കിലും ഓരോ വിധത്തിലുള്ള അനുഭവങ്ങളും ആവശ്യവുമാണ് ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു കൊച്ചികണയന്തർ താലൂക്കിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഈ ആക്ഷേപം വളരെ കുറവാണെന്നാണ്. കണ്ണിൽപെടാത്ത വല്ലതും ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ കേസുകളുണ്ടായിരിക്കാം. അതു അശ്രദ്ധകൊണ്ടും നിർബ്ബന്ധമില്ലായ്കകൊണ്ടും വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നാണ് അന്വേഷണത്തിൽ എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലായിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

വേറെ ഒരു സംഗതി, ദേവസ്വത്തിലേക്കു പാട്ടം കൊടുക്കുവാനുള്ള നെല്ല് "പൈസിംഗ്" ആഫീസർ നിർബ്ബന്ധമായി വാങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നുണ്ടെന്നാണ്. ജന്മിക്കു പാട്ടം കൊടുക്കേണ്ട നെല്ല് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനെ ഏല്പിക്കണമെന്നും അതിനു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടുന്ന വില ദേവസ്വത്തിലേക്കു കൊടുത്താൽ മതിയെന്നുംവെച്ചാൽ അതു വളരെ നന്നായിരിക്കും. നെല്ലു കൊടുത്തുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അതിനു ശരിയായവില കിട്ടുകയും ചെയ്യും. അതു വളരെ സന്തോഷകരമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. ഏതു നെല്ലായാലും വേണ്ടില്ല, പൈസിംഗ് ഓഫീസർ വാങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകും. അതിനു് കൊടുക്കുന്ന വില ഒരുപ്പിക ആറണയാണ്. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിലേക്കു നെല്ല കൊടുത്തതിനുശേഷം ദേവസ്വത്തിലേക്കുള്ളതു പണമായി കൊടുക്കാമെന്നുപറഞ്ഞിട്ടും തക്കിച്ചു വാങ്ങാതിരിക്കുകയും, പിറേറ ദിവസം ഒരു അറാച്ചുമെൻറ കൊണ്ടുവരുകയും ചെയ്യിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതി അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഒരുറുപ്പിക എട്ടണ കൊടുക്കാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടും ദേവസ്വക്കാർ സമ്മതിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു നെല്ല ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിലേക്കു എടുക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിൻെറ വിലയായി കിട്ടുന്നതുക ദേവസ്വത്തിലേക്കു പാട്ടം കൊടുത്താൽ മതിയെന്നാക്കിയാൽ അതു വളരെ സന്നായിരിക്കും. കൂടുതൽ കൊടുത്തിട്ടും വാങ്ങുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ പിന്നെ ആ സാധുകർഷകരുടെ സ്ഥിതി എന്തായിരിക്കും!

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur)*: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Devaswoms have to be given Rs. 1—8—0.

Mr. President: Order, Order. He will reply that.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: That fact has to be brought to the notice of the Government.

Mr. President: I presume that point will be replied to by the Director of Food Supplies to-day.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: അതുകൊണ്ടു് നെല്ലു് പൈസ ചെയ്യുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ഈ ഒരു സംഗതി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണമെന്നു എനിക്കപേക്ഷയുണ്ടു്.

ഹിൽപാഡിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു തോറ്റുപോയിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു ചിലർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുകയുണ്ടായി. ആ അഭിപ്രായം എനിക്കില്ല. നിശ്ചയമായിട്ടും അതിൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു യാതൊരു തോൽവിയും പറ്റിയിട്ടില്ലെന്നാണ് എൻെറ ബോദ്ധ്യം (ഹിയർ, ഹിയർ) പത്തിരുപതിനായിരപ്പറ നെല്ല കൃഷിചെയ്യണ്ടാക്കുവാനുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കാട്ടുവെട്ടിത്തെളിച്ചും മറ്റും കൃഷിചെയ്യാവുന്ന നിലയിലാക്കിയിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിൽ എവിടെയാണ് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു തോറ്റുപോയിട്ടുള്ളതു്? ജയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നതന്നെയാണ് ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നതു്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെഴത്തശ്ശൻ: ഒരിക്കലും തോറ്റിട്ടില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: ചില പദങ്ങളിലും ചിലരുടെ പ്രസംഗങ്ങളിലുംനിന്ന ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ട തോറ്റപോയിരിക്കുന്നവെന്ന എനിക്കറിയുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്". ആ പ്രസ്താവനകളെല്ലാം വാസ്തവത്തിൽ തീരെ അബദ്ധമാണെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെഴത്തശ്ശൻ: അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു അബദ്ധംതന്നെയാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: ൨ ൦,൦൦൦ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തു നെൽകൃഷി ചെയ്യുവാനുള്ള ഒരു പദ്ധതി ഗവമ്മെണ്ട തയ്യാറാക്കുകയും, കൃഷി ചെയ്യാവുന്നവരെ ഏല്പിക്കത്തക്ക നിലയിൽ അതിനുവേണ്ട പ്രവൃത്തികൾ ചെയ്തുതായ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ചുമതലയെ നിർവ്വഹിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തശേഷം "ഗവമ്മെണ്ട തോറ്റുപോയി" എന്നാരെങ്കിലും പറയുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അതു ശരിയല്ല. ഹിൽപാഡി സ്കീം നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലെ കഷ്കന്മാരെ ഉദ്ധരിക്കുവാൻ പറ്റുന്നതായ ഒന്നാണെന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു നിശ്ചയമായും ഇതുപോലെയുള്ള അനേകം പദ്ധതികൾ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും ഉണ്ടാക്കുകയും, അതു പബ്ലിക്കിന്റെ ഉപയോഗത്തിനായി ഏല്പിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: സർ, കൊച്ചിയിലെ സംഭരണവിതരണ വകുപ്പു അതിന്റെ ചുമതലകൾ നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ എത്രത്തോളം പരാജയപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ചിന്തിക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ അതിനെക്കുറിച്ചു രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നായിതീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെയൊ വകുപ്പദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്റെയൊ ഉദ്ദേശശുദ്ധിയേയൊ ആത്മാർത്ഥതയേയൊ കുറിച്ചു ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഇന്നു ആരും ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെഴത്തശ്ശൻ: ഒരിക്കലുമില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: എന്നാൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ പ്രവൃത്തിപദ്ധതിയിൽ വരുമ്പോൾ ചില ന്യൂനതകൾ കടന്നുകൂടുന്നു. ജനസമുദായത്തിനു ഇതു ദോഷകരവും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു അപമാനകരവുമാണെന്ന പരമാർത്ഥത്തെ മറച്ചുവെക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. രാജ്യത്തു സാധനങ്ങൾ ശേഖരിക്കുവാനുള്ള അധികാരവും ചുമതലയും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു കൈവശം വെച്ചിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ആ ഉദ്ദേശം തികച്ചും സാധിക്കാനാവശ്യമായ നടപടികളെടുക്കുവാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു തയ്യാറാകാത്തതാണു് കരിഞ്ചന്തകൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രധാനകാരണം. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയുവാനുള്ള അവസരം വന്നപ്പോൾ ഞാൻ ആ സംഗതി പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അതിനുള്ള നിവാരണമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും ഞാൻ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു അതിനെ വീണ്ടും ആവർത്തിച്ചു ഈ സഭയുടെ സമയം കളയണമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. തങ്ങളുടെ കയ്യിൽനിന്നും സാമാനം വാങ്ങുന്ന ആളുകളുടെ കഴുത്തറക്കുവാൻപോലും മടിക്കാത്ത കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കുടിയും ഭയപ്പെടുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായത്തിലാണു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ഇപ്പോൾ നെല്ലിന്റെ ആദായം എടുത്തുവരുന്നതെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതിൽ തെറ്റില്ല. ഒരു ഉറുപ്പിക ആറണക്കു വാങ്ങുന്ന നെല്ലു അവർ ഉപഭോക്താക്കൾക്കു ഒരു ഉറുപ്പിക പന്ത്രണ്ടണക്കാണു് വില്ക്കുന്നതു്. അങ്ങിനെ വില്ക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ആറണയാണു് ലാഭം കിട്ടുന്നതു്. ഒരുറുപ്പിക ആറണ മുതലിറക്കി ആറണലാഭമെടുക്കുക! ഒരു കച്ചവടക്കാരനും ചെയ്യാത്തതാണിതു്. ഒരുറുപ്പിക ആറണക്കു നെല്ലുവാങ്ങി അതു സെൻട്രൽ ഡെപ്പോവിൽ ശേഖരിക്കുന്നതിനും, അവിടെനിന്നും ഫെയർ പ്രൈസ് ഷാപ്പുകളിലേക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനും ഉള്ള ചിലവു വിലയിൽ കൂട്ടുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള ന്യായം പറയുമായിരിക്കാം. അങ്ങിനെ വില വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതിരിക്കുവാനുള്ള ഒരു മാർഗ്ഗമാണു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു കണ്ടുപിടിക്കേണ്ടതു്. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും ശേഖരിക്കുന്ന നെല്ലെല്ലാം നേരെ മില്ലുകളിലേക്കൊ ഡെപ്പോകളിലേക്കൊ അണു് അയക്കാവു പതിവു്. കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തുള്ള ഓരോ ഫെയർ പ്രൈസ് ഷാപ്പുകളിലും ഓരോ ലൈസൻസു പിടികകളിലും ഒരു മാസത്തിൽ ഇത്ര പറ നെല്ലു്, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഇത്ര പറ അരി ആവശ്യമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നുള്ളതിന്റെ ഒരു കണക്കു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ കൈവശമുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു തീച്ചയാണു്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ഓരോ വില്ലേജുകളിലുമുള്ള കഷ്കന്മാരുടെ പക്കൽനിന്നും ഇത്ര പറ നെല്ലു കിട്ടും എന്നുള്ളതിന്റെ കണക്കും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ കൈവശമുണ്ടായിരിക്കും. അതനുസരിച്ചു അതാതു വില്ലേജുകളിലുള്ള ഫെയർ പ്രൈസ് ഷാപ്പുകൾക്കും ലൈസൻസ് പിടികക്കാക്കും കണക്കു പ്രകാരമാവശ്യമുള്ള നെല്ലു് എത്രയുണ്ടോ അതു് അതാതു വില്ലേജുകളിൽ വെച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് ബാക്കിയുള്ളതു മാത്രം ദൂരത്തേക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകുക എന്നുള്ള സമ്പ്രദായം നടപ്പിലാക്കിയാൽ വളരെ നന്നായിരിക്കും. ഈ മാറ്റം നെല്ലു വാങ്ങുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായത്തിലുള്ള ന്യൂനതയെ പരിഹ

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രിക്കാൻ പയ്യാപ്പമാകും. വില്ലേജുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരോ തഹശീൽദാർമാരോ നിലമുടമസ്ഥന്മാരുടേയൊ, കർഷകന്മാരുടേയൊ അടുക്കൽ പോയി നെല്ല് അളന്നുവാങ്ങുകയാണിന്നത്തെ പതിവു്. അങ്ങിനെ അവർ വാങ്ങുന്ന നെല്ല ശരിയായ ഗുണമുള്ളതാണോ എന്നു പരിശോധിക്കുവാൻ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ശ്രമപ്പെടാറില്ല. ഒരു കൃഷിക്കാരനിൽനിന്നും മുയിരപ്പറ നെല്ല കിട്ടുവാനുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ആ മുയിരപ്പറ നെല്ലും അയാളുടെ പക്കൽനിന്നു് അളന്നുവാങ്ങി കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നു. പതിരില്ലാത്തതാണൊ നെല്ലെന്നു് തഹശീൽദാർമാരോ പാവ്വത്യക്കാരന്മാരോ മറ്റു വില്ലേജുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരോ പരിശോധിക്കാറില്ല. നെല്ലു് എത്ര പറയുണ്ടോ അതത്രയും അളന്നുവാങ്ങുന്നു. മില്ലിൽ വന്നുചേർന്ന നെല്ല കുത്തിക്കിട്ടുന്ന അരി മാത്രം കൊടുക്കാൻ ബാദ്ധ്യതയുള്ള മില്ലുടമസ്ഥനും നെല്ലിന്റെ ഗുണദോഷചിന്തയിലേർപ്പെടുന്നില്ല. നൂറുപറ നെല്ലിനു് ൫൪ പറ അരി കിട്ടിയാലും ൬൪ പറ അരി കിട്ടിയാലും മുയാഥക്കതിലൊന്നുമില്ല.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The hon'ble member was stating that there is no arrangement to test the quality of paddy purchased. There is an arrangement. When paddy is purchased it has to be taken to be milled and when it is taken to be milled the quality is tested then and there. If the quality is inferior a report is made to the Superior Officers.

Mr. C. K. Nayar *(Nemmara):* Who is testing the paddy when it is purchased?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The paddy purchased is taken to the Mills for being converted into rice. They are expected to test it then.

Mr. C. K. Nayar *(Nemmara):* The Parvathyam purchases the paddy and gives it to the Mill-owner for husking. They don't test the quality. The Mill owner gives back whatever quantity of rice is got out of milling.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* There is the milling staff to supervise the quality of paddy.

ഞാൻ മലയാളത്തിൽതന്നെ ഒരിക്കൽകൂടി പറഞ്ഞേക്കാം. മില്ലുകാരേയൊ കച്ചവടക്കാരേയൊ ൧൦൦ പറ നെല്ല് ഒരു കർഷകൻ അളന്നേല്പിക്കണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവർ പോയി അതു് അളവെടുക്കുന്നു. അതിൽ പതിരുണ്ടോ, ചണ്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നൊന്നും അവർ നോക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇത്രപറ നെല്ലിനു് ഇത്രപറ അരി തരണമെന്നുള്ള നിശ്ചയത്തിന്മേലല്ലൊ മില്ലുകാരെ നെല്ലേല്പിക്കുന്നതു്. അതു അരിയാക്കുമ്പോൾ എത്രപറ അരിയുണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടോ അത്രയും പറ അരിയും തരണമെന്നു മാത്രമേ നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നുള്ളു. ൧൦൦-ക്കു് ൫൪ പറ അരിയേ ഉള്ളുവെങ്കിൽ അതു മാത്രമേ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതുള്ളു. എത്രയുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഉള്ളതു മുഴുവൻ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതുമതലയേ മില്ലുകാർക്കുള്ളു. ഈ സമ്പ്രദായം മാറ്റി അതാതു പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലുള്ള നെല്ല വാങ്ങുവാൻ അതാതു പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ ഫെയർ പ്രൈസ് ഷാപ്പുകാരേയും ലൈസൻസു പീടികക്കാരേയും എല്പിക്കുന്നതാണു നല്ലതു്. നല്ല നെല്ല മാത്രമേ അവർ വാങ്ങുകയുള്ളു. ഇന്നു് ഉപഭോക്താക്കളോടുത്തരവാദിത്വമില്ലാത്തവരാണു് ഈ പീടികക്കാർ. ഞാൻ പറയുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം മുനിലക്കു ഗണ്യമായ മാറ്റം വരുത്തിയേക്കും. ഒരു പ്രദേശത്തെ ആവശ്യത്തിനുള്ളതു കഴിച്ചു ബാക്കി മാത്രമേ അന്യദിക്കിലേക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോയിക്കൂടുപെങ്കിൽ ആവശ്യത്തിനു നെല്ലില്ലാത്ത താലൂക്കുകാർ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിലാകില്ലയൊ എന്നൊരു ചോദ്യത്തിന്നവകാശമുണ്ടു്. കൊല്ലത്തോടുകൊല്ലം ഉണ്ണാനാവശ്യമായതു മുഴുവൻ ഒന്നിച്ചു നീക്കിവെക്കാതിരുന്നാൽ മതി. ഇങ്ങിനെയായാൽ നെല്ലുള്ള താലൂക്കുകളിൽ കടത്തുകൂലിയായിട്ടൊരു പൈപോലും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു ചിലവിടേണ്ടിവരികയില്ലെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല, നല്ല നെല്ലില്ലാതെ എങ്ങും കാണുകയുമില്ല. ഇതാണു് ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള എന്റെ നിർദ്ദേശം. ഇന്നു നടപ്പിലിരിക്കുന്ന മറെറാരു ദോഷം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ഉദാസീനതയാണു്. പട്ടിണിപ്പാവങ്ങളുടെ ആത്മരക്ഷക്കായി നിർമ്മിക്കപ്പെട്ട ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടാണിതു്. അതിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരായി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു തങ്ങളെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു ജനസാമാന്യത്തിന്റെ ജീവരക്ഷക്കുവേണ്ടിയാണെന്നുള്ള ബോധം ആ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കുണ്ടായിരിക്കണം. (ഹിയർ, ഹിയർ). അവരുടെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വബോധം, സത്യസന്ധത, കൃത്യനിഷ്ഠ മുതലായവയിലാണു് ജനക്ഷേമം ഇന്നു നിലകൊള്ളുന്നതു്. പഴയമാതിരി.....

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെഴുത്തച്ഛൻ: അതു് ഇനിമേൽ ഉണ്ടാകയില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: കൈവശം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന നെല്ല തീർന്നുപോയതുകൊണ്ടോ കയ്യിലുണ്ടായിരുന്ന റേഷൻകാർഡു കൈവിട്ടുപോയതുകൊണ്ടോ ഒരാഫീസു് ഒരു പുതിയ കാർഡു കിട്ടണമെങ്കിൽ മുഴുകഫം കഴിയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ആ ദിവസങ്ങൾ അവർ എങ്ങനെ കഴിക്കുമെന്നാണു് ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതാവോ? കാലത്തേക്കു് ഒരു മണി അരിപോ

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ലുമില്ലാത്തവർ രാത്രി ഫ്ര മണിക്കു ചെന്നു വിളിച്ചു സങ്കടമുണത്തിച്ചാൽ അപ്പോൾതന്നെ കാർഡു കൊടുക്കുന്ന ഫീൽഡാഫീസർമാരേയും എനിക്കറിയാം.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: അതു പണ്ടല്ലേ? എത്രകാലമായി?

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: കാലമൊന്നും ആയിട്ടില്ല. കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തിലെ ജനസാമാന്യത്തിന്റെ ക്ഷേമത്തെ മുൻനിറുത്തിയാണു് അവരെ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിൽ വെച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള വിശ്വാസത്തോടുകൂടി പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുന്നവരും അവരുടെ കൂട്ടത്തിലുണ്ടു്. ശമ്പളത്തിനുവേണ്ടി മാത്രം ഉദ്യോഗത്തിലിരിക്കുന്നവരുമുണ്ടു്. അവരെപ്പറ്റിയാണു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. അവരും കൃത്യബോധത്തോടുകൂടി തങ്ങളുടെ പ്രവൃത്തികൾ നിർവ്വഹിക്കുവാൻ തയ്യാറാകുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അപ്പോൾ കാണാം ഫുഡ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിന്റെ കാര്യക്ഷമത വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതായിട്ടു്. അപ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും വളരെ കുറയും. ഇനി മണ്ണെണ്ണയുടെ കാര്യം പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇന്നു കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തു മണ്ണെണ്ണയുടെ റേഷൻ വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിച്ചപ്പോൾ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലായിട്ടു് എനിക്കു കിട്ടിയ അറിവു് അതിന്റെ കോട്ടാ കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു് എന്നാണു്. എന്നാൽ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ശരിയായ അന്വേഷണം നടത്തിയതിൽ അതിന്റെ വിവരം മറ്റൊരുതരത്തിലാണെന്നു മനസ്സിലായി.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെഴുത്തച്ഛൻ: അതു ശരിയാണെങ്കിൽ വളരെ ശോചനീയമാണു്.

Mr. President: How long will the Hon'ble Member take to finish his speech?

Mr. C. K. Nayar *(Nemmara):* I will require 10 or 15 minutes, Sir.

Mr. President: Then the House will adjourn now and you can resume at 2-30 p.m.

The House rose at 1-30 p.m. for lunch and reassembled at 2-30 p.m. with the Deputy President in the Chair.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: സർ, തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂരിലുള്ള മണ്ണെണ്ണക്കമ്പനി ഏജൻറന്മാരുടെ കയ്യിൽ മണ്ണെണ്ണ ധാരാളമായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും, അവരുടെ പക്കൽനിന്നും എടുക്കാവുന്നിടത്തോളം മണ്ണെണ്ണ എടുക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണു് മണ്ണെണ്ണ ഇത്ര ചുരുങ്ങിയതെന്നും ഒരു പ്രസ്താവം കേൾക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതിന്റെ യഥാർത്ഥമെന്താണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയെ ആ വിഷയത്തിലേക്കു ഞാൻ ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇനി പഞ്ചസാരയുടെ കാര്യത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. പഞ്ചസാര വിതരണത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം മേജർ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റി, മൈനർ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റി, ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശങ്ങൾ ഇങ്ങിനെ മൂന്നായിട്ടാണു് തിരിച്ചുകാണുന്നതു്. മേജർ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിൽ ഒരു വ്യക്തിക്കു് ഫ്ര ഔൺസും, മൈനർ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിൽ ഒരു വ്യക്തിക്കു് ഫ ഔൺസും, ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഒരു വ്യക്തിക്കു് ⅛ ഔൺസും വീതമാണു് പഞ്ചസാര കൊടുക്കാറു്. കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തിലെ ഒരു മേജർ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിൽ താമസിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സ്കൂൾമാസ്റ്റർ ഫ്ര ഔൺസു് പഞ്ചസാര വാങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ മൈനർ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിലുള്ള ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തേക്കു സ്ഥലമാറ്റം കിട്ടി പോകേണ്ടിവരുമ്പോൾ ഫ ഔൺസും മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയില്ലാത്ത സ്ഥലത്തേക്കാണു പോകുന്നതെങ്കിൽ ⅛ ഔൺസും മാത്രം വാങ്ങുവാനാണു് നിബ്ബന്ധിതനാകുന്നതു്. ഫ്ര ഔൺസു് പഞ്ചസാര വാങ്ങി ആവശ്യം കഴിച്ചു ശീലിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരാൾ തന്റെ സ്ഥലമാറ്റത്തോടൊപ്പം കുറഞ്ഞ വീതം പഞ്ചസാരകൊണ്ടു തൃപ്തിപ്പെടേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരാൾക്കു് സ്ഥലമാറ്റത്തോടൊപ്പം പഞ്ചസാരയുടെ വീതവും കുറയുന്നുവെന്നുള്ളതു് വളരെ അനാശാസ്യമാണു്. ഒരു മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിൽ താമസിച്ചിരുന്ന ഒരാൾക്കു് അവിടെയുണ്ടായിരുന്ന പഞ്ചസാരയുടെ ആവശ്യംതന്നെ എവിടെ മാറിപ്പോയാലും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതാണു്. മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിൽ താമസിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഉള്ള ധനസ്ഥിതിയൊ കുലീനത്വമൊ വ്യക്തിമാഹാത്മ്യമൊ ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലേക്കു മാറുമ്പോൾ കുറയുന്നില്ല. മാത്രമല്ല, ധനസ്ഥിതി, കുലീനത്വം, വ്യക്തിമാഹാത്മ്യം എന്നിവയിൽ പട്ടണവാസികളെ അധഃക്കരിക്കുന്നവരുമുണ്ടു ഗ്രാപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെന്ന പരമാർത്ഥം സ്മരണീയമാണു്. എങ്കിലും ഗ്രാമവാസിക്കും ഗ്രാമത്തിലേക്കു താല്ക്കാലികമായിമാറുന്ന പട്ടണവാസിക്കും പഞ്ചസാര ⅛ ഔൺസ്സായി കുറയുന്നു! ഒരു ക്രമമനുസരിച്ചു് പഞ്ചസാര സാധാരണയായി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന മരാൾക്കു് എപ്പോഴും ഒരേതോതിലായിരിക്കണം പഞ്ചസാര കൊടുക്കുന്നതു്. കൂടുതൽ പഞ്ചസാര കുട്ടികളെസംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ആവശ്യമുണെങ്കിലും പകുതിമാത്രമെ അവക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നുള്ളു. ഇനി ആയുകാർഡുകാക്കും ദിവസകാർഡുകാക്കും നൽകിവരുന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു് പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ദിവസകാർഡുകാരായ

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പലക്കും ഇന്നു പഞ്ചസാര കിട്ടുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ള ആക്ഷേപമുണ്ട്. ചില പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ ദിവസകാർഡുകാക്കു പഞ്ചസാരതന്നെ കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. അനുഭവം പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ പഞ്ചസാര ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്ത കാർഡുകാർ അതു വാങ്ങി കരിഞ്ചന്തയിൽ വ്യാപരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അരിക്കു ആഴ്ചകാർഡു വാങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ളവർ പലരും ദിവസകാർഡായി മാറിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഒരാഴ്ചക്കുള്ള മുഴുവൻ അരിയും വാങ്ങുമ്പോൾ പലപ്പോഴും നല്ലതു കിട്ടാതെപോകുന്നു. നല്ല അരി കിട്ടുന്ന ദിവസങ്ങളിലെങ്കിലും അതു കിട്ടാൻവേണ്ടിയാണു് ആഴ്ചക്കാർഡിനെ ദിവസക്കാർഡായി മാറ്റുന്നതു്. ഇങ്ങിനെ പല ആഴ്ചകാർഡുകളും ദിവസകാർഡാക്കി മാറ്റീട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇങ്ങിനെ ദിവസക്കാർഡാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളവക്കും പഞ്ചസാര കിട്ടുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു് വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണു്. കൂടാതെ പഞ്ചസാര കാർഡുപ്രകാരം പഞ്ചസാരവാങ്ങി അതു ഒരുപയോഗം ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കുവാനും പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. ആവശ്യമുള്ളവക്കാണൊ പഞ്ചസാര കൊടുക്കുന്നതെന്നു് അന്വേഷിക്കുവാനുള്ള ഏർപ്പാടുകൾവേണം. കരിഞ്ചന്തയിൽ മറവുള്ളവക്കു വില്ക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം നിറുത്തണം. ഇനി സ്റ്റാൻഡേർഡ് ക്ലോത്തിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു് പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ഇന്നത്തെ നിയമം ഒരു കാർഡനുസരിച്ചു കിട്ടാവുന്നിടത്തോളം വസ്ത്രം ഒരവസരത്തിൽതന്നെ വാങ്ങണമെന്നാണു്. ഫ ൦ ൦ വാര തുണി ഒരു കാർഡുപ്രകാരമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു ഫ ൦ ൦ വാരയും ഒരു സമയത്തുതന്നെ ഒന്നിച്ചുവാങ്ങണം.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ: അങ്ങിനെയില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: ഇപ്പോഴില്ലായിരിക്കാം. അങ്ങിനെ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെന്നുള്ളതു തീച്ചയാണു്. ഇപ്പോൾ മാറ്റീട്ടുണ്ടൊ എന്നു് അറിവില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ആവശ്യമുള്ളതുമാത്രം വാങ്ങുവാനുള്ള സൌകര്യമുണ്ടാക്കണം. ഒരാഴ്ചയിൽ ഒരു മുണ്ടുവാങ്ങിയാൽ പിന്നത്തെ ആഴ്ചയിൽ പോയി ചോദിച്ചാലും ഒരു മുണ്ടു കിട്ടണം. ഈവക ദോഷങ്ങളെ പരിഹരിച്ചാൽ ഫുഡ് സപ്ലൈഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിന്റെ നടത്തിപ്പിലുള്ള ആക്ഷേപങ്ങളിൽ ഒരു വലിയ വിഭാഗം കുറയുമെന്നാണു് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയെ ഈവക സംഗതികളിലേക്കു ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ വിരമിക്കുന്നു.

*മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എൻ. ഇട്ടിരവിനമ്പൂതിരി: സർ, ഇന്നലെയും ഇന്നുമായിട്ടു് ഇവിടെ ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങളുടെ സംഭരണവിതരണപ്രശ്നത്തെപ്പറ്റി ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട പല മെമ്പർമാരും വിമർശിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷെ എനിക്കു് ആദ്യം വേറെ ഒരു സംഗതിയെക്കുറിച്ചു വിമർശിച്ചിട്ടുവേണൊ ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി വിമർശിക്കുവാൻ, എന്നൊരു സംശയമുണ്ടു്. ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായാലല്ലാതെ അതു് സംഭരിക്കുവാനൊ വിതരണം ചെയ്യുവാനൊ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാനായിട്ടു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് എന്താണു് ചിലവുചെയ്യിട്ടുള്ളതു് ; അതിനു വേണ്ടി പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുവാനായി ആരെയെങ്കിലും വെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടൊ; കൃഷിസംബന്ധമായ കൂലിപ്പണികൾ ചെയ്യുവാൻ ശീലമുള്ള ആൾക്കാരുണ്ടൊ എന്നൊക്കെയാണു് ആദ്യമായിട്ടു നമുക്കു് ചിന്തിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു്. ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ ഒരു മാതിരി നല്ല കൂലിപ്പണിക്കാരെയെല്ലാം ഇവിടെനിന്നു കടത്തിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ വേണ്ടുവോളം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കഴിഞ്ഞതിനുശേഷം മതി അതു വിതരണം ചെയ്യേണ്ട കാര്യത്തിൽ നിയന്ത്രണം വരുത്തുവാൻ. ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങളുടെ വില നിയന്ത്രിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് മറവുള്ള സാധനങ്ങളുടെ വില കൂട്ടിയതിന്റെ തോതനുസരിച്ചല്ലെ എന്നുള്ളകാര്യംകൂടി ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ഭക്ഷണസാധനം ഉണ്ടായിക്കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ പിന്നെ വിലകൂടിയാലും കുറച്ചെങ്കിലും കിട്ടും. ഒട്ടും ഇല്ലാതെയായാലാണു് ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടവരുക. അതിനു സൌകര്യമായവിധത്തിൽ പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുവാനായിട്ടു് ഹിൽപാഡി നാട്ടുകാക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കണം. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് വിചാരിച്ചാൽ ഹിൽപാഡി ശരിയായി നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുവാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. ഹിൽപാഡി തുടങ്ങിയ കാലത്തെപ്പോലെ ഇക്കൊല്ലം ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനെക്കൊണ്ടു കൃഷിചെയ്യുവാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. അതു വേണ്ടപോലെ കൃഷിചെയ്തു വിളവുണ്ടാക്കിയെടുക്കുവാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു പ്രയാസമാണു്. കൃഷിയിറക്കുവാൻ മാത്രമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഇപ്പോൾ വെട്ടിത്തെളിച്ചുവെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അവിടെ കൃഷിയിറക്കുവാനുള്ള സൌകര്യം വരുത്തിയതോടുകൂടി അവിടങ്ങളിൽ ആവശ്യമുള്ള വളം കൊണ്ടുവരുവാനുള്ള സൌകര്യങ്ങൾ കുറുക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഫ @ നാഴിക ദൂരെനിന്നു വേണം വളം കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ. വളം ശേഖരിക്കുവാനായിട്ടു് ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരാളെ വെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷെ വളം ശേഖരിക്കൽമാത്രമില്ല. ആൾമാത്രമെ ബാക്കിയുള്ളു.

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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മിസ്റ്റർ സി. വി. ഇയ്യു: ആളെങ്കിലും ബാക്കിയുണ്ടൊ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എൻ. ഇട്ടിരവിനമ്പൂതിരി: അതിനുവേണ്ടിവെച്ച ആളുമാത്രം ബാക്കിയുണ്ടു്. ഈ സംഗതി ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ കഷ്ടകന്മാരുടെ കയ്യിൽനിന്നു് എടുക്കുന്ന ഏതു സാധനങ്ങൾക്കും ഇന്നത്തെനിലയിൽ വില കൂടീട്ടുണ്ടു്. കൂലിനിരക്കും മറ്റും വളരെ വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. വ അണ വിലക്കു മുമ്പു വാങ്ങിച്ചിരുന്ന കൈക്കോട്ടിനു് ഇപ്പോൾ ൪ ഉറുപ്പിക വില കൊടുക്കണം. ഫ ൦ ൦ ഉറുപ്പിക വിലയുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ഒരു കന്നിനു ഇപ്പോൾ ൪ ൦ ൦-൦, ഫ ൦ ൦ ൦-൦ ഉറുപ്പിക കൊടുത്താലെ കിട്ടുകയുള്ളു. ഇതൊന്നും ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഒരു പറ നിലം കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്ന കർഷകനോടും ആ ഒരു പറക്കും ഉള്ള കച്ചീട്ടു വില്ലേജു പാവ്വത്യക്കാരന്മാർ വിളവെടുക്കുന്നതിനുമുമ്പുവന്നു് എഴുതി വാങ്ങിക്കും. എന്നാൽ കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നു ആൾക്കാകട്ടെ കച്ചീട്ടുവാങ്ങുന്നവർക്കാകട്ടെ ആ നിലത്തിലെ വിളവു് എത്രപറയുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു് നിശ്ചയമുണ്ടായിരിക്കുകയില്ല. കച്ചീട്ടുപ്രകാരമുള്ള നെല്ലു് അയാൾ കൊടുത്തുകൊള്ളണം.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സു്. പണിക്കർ: അവരെ കൊയ്യാനുംകൂടി അനുവദിക്കുകയില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എൻ. ഇട്ടിരവിനമ്പൂതിരി: കൊയ്യണ്ടാ. അറസ്റ്റ്ചെയ്തു കൊണ്ടുപോകുകയാണെങ്കിൽ സെൻട്രൽജയിലിലുള്ള റേഷനെങ്കിലും അവർക്കു കിട്ടുമല്ലൊ ?, വിളവിന്റെ തോതു് എത്രയുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്താതെകണ്ടു് വെറുതെ ആളുകളെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിക്കരുതു്. ഒരു കൃഷിക്കാരനുതന്നെ എട്ടു ചാലും പത്തു ചാലും നോക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ടാകും. വിളവെടുത്തുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അപ്പോൾതന്നെ അയാളുടെപക്കലുള്ള നെല്ലു് എടുക്കാതെകണ്ടു് അറയിൽ മുദ്രവെക്കുകയാണു് പതിവു്. വിളവെടുക്കുന്നതിനുമുമ്പുതന്നെ രാത്രികാലങ്ങളിൽ പാടത്തിറങ്ങി അരിഞ്ഞുപോകാവുണ്ടു്. അതിൽ അത്ഭുതപ്പെടാനില്ല. കൊയിത്തുകഴിഞ്ഞാലുടൻതന്നെ ശരിയായവിലകൊടുത്തു് നെല്ലു്എടുക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ആരും നെല്ലു് ഒരിടത്തേക്കും കടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുകയില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് ചെയ്യുന്നതു് നമ്മുടെ നെല്ലു് കുറഞ്ഞവിലക്കുവാങ്ങി സിൻഡിൽനിന്നൊ ബലൂചിസ്ഥാനിൽനിന്നൊ വരുന്നതിനുള്ള വണ്ടിക്കൂലിയും മറ്റും കണക്കാക്കി ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു നഷ്ടമില്ലാത്തതരത്തിലുള്ള ഒരു വില നിശ്ചയിച്ചു് അവിടങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു വരുത്തുന്ന അരിയാണു നമുക്കു കൂടുതൽവിലക്കു തരുന്നതു്. ഈ നഷ്ടമെല്ലാം സഹിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നതു് വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ഇവിടങ്ങളിലെ കൃഷിക്കാരാണു്. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ നമുക്കു് ഒരിക്കലും വിചാരിക്കുവാൻപോലുംകഴിയാത്ത ഒരു സംഗതിയായി തീരുന്നു. ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് ഇതിനു ഒരു കണക്കുവെക്കുകയും എക്സസ് പ്രോഫിറ്റ് ടാക്സ്സോ മറ്റൊരുവെച്ചു് മേക്കപ്പു് ചെയ്യുകയും ചെയ്താൽ നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലെ കൃഷി നന്നാകും. ഇവിടെ ഏറ്റവും നല്ല നെല്ലു് കൂടുതലായി ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ആൾക്കു് ബോണസ്സു് കൊടുക്കുന്ന ഒരു ഏർപ്പാടു നടപ്പാക്കണം. ഒരിക്കൽ ൪ ൦ ൦ പറ നെല്ലു് വിളവെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ആൾ ആയിരപ്പറനെല്ലു് അടുത്ത വിളവിൽ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അയാൾക്കു നല്ലൊരു ബോണസ്സു് കൊടുക്കണം. കൊയിത്തെല്ലാംകഴിഞ്ഞു മൂന്നാഴ്ചയോളം ചെന്നിട്ടാണു് മുദ്രവെക്കുവാനായി പോകുന്നതു്. മുദ്രവെച്ചു പോരികയുംചെയ്യും. എന്റെ അനേഷണത്തിൽ മുദ്രവെക്കുന്നതുമാത്രമെ ബാക്കിയുള്ളുവെന്നാണു് അറിയുന്നതു്: നെല്ലെല്ലാം പിന്നിൽകൂടി പുറത്തേക്കും പോകും. ഇതിനു ശമ്പളംകൊടുത്തു ഒരാളെ വെക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ടൊ എന്നാണു് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്. അരി എവിടെ കണ്ടുവോ അപ്പോൾ അവിടെ സീൽവെക്കും. സീൽ അവിടെതന്നെയിരിക്കും. അരിയായാലും നെല്ലായാലും അതെല്ലാം മുമ്പുതന്നെ അവിടെനിന്നു മാറ്റിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കും. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള പല ഡിഫക്ടസ്സും ഇതിലുണ്ടു്. ഈ സംഗതിയെസംബന്ധിച്ചു ഞാൻതന്നെ പലപ്പോഴും ഫുഡ്ഡയറക്ടരോടു് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇതു് വളരെ ഗൌരവമായി ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് ആലോചിക്കണം.

പിന്നെ പഞ്ചസാരയുടെ കാര്യം പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു് മധുരിപ്പാനായിട്ടു കൊടുക്കുന്നതാണു്. പഞ്ചസാര എപ്പോഴും അരിയോളം പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ളതാണെന്നു ആരും വിചാരിക്കാറില്ല. മധുരം കുറച്ചുകിട്ടിയാൽ അതുകൊണ്ടു് എല്ലാവരും തൃപ്തിപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളും. അരിയും മണ്ണെണ്ണയുമൊക്കെ അങ്ങിനെയല്ല. ഈ കായലോരങ്ങളിൽ മാത്രമല്ലാതെ മറ്റുള്ളഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ ഇതുപോലെ ചുട്ടു കിട്ടുവാൻ പ്രയാസമാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ചുട്ടുകിട്ടാനുംമറ്റും വളരെ വിഷമമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പണ്ടത്തെപ്പോലെതന്നെ മണ്ണെണ്ണ കൊടുക്കണം. ഇതിനെല്ലാം പുറമെ പ്രധാനമായിട്ടു കൊയ്ത്തു കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ ഉടനെ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഫ ൫ ദിവസത്തിനകമായി കൃഷിക്കാരിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടുവാനുള്ള നെല്ലു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിലേക്കെടുക്കണം. അങ്ങിനെചെയ്താൽ ഇവിടെയുള്ള നെല്ലു് മറ്റു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേക്കു പച്ചസ്സുചെയ്യുന്ന ഉപദ്രവം കുറയും.

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(ഹിയർ, ഹിയർ) ഇന്നത്തെനിലയിൽ കൂലിക്കാക്ക ഒന്നര ഉറപ്പിക്കയും രണ്ടുനേരത്തെ ക്ഷേണവും കൊടുക്കണം. എന്നാലും മുമ്പു കിട്ടിയിരുന്ന കൂലിക്കാരുടെ പകുതി പണിയെടുക്കുവാൻ ശ്രാണിയുള്ളവരെ കിട്ടുകയുമില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ കൃഷിയുടെ ചിലവു് പണ്ടത്തേതിലും വളരെ വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കയാണു്. അതനുസരിച്ചുള്ള ഒരു വില നിശ്ചയിച്ചു് അതു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും കൊടുക്കണം. ഇതു് സാധുക്കളുടെ കാര്യമാണു്. കൃഷിയുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ പല ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും അവർക്ക സഹിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിൽ ഈ സംഗതിയംകൂടി അടങ്ങിട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇതിനെക്കുറിച്ചും പറ്റുമാലോചിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Sir, I would supplement the various suggestions made by the Hon'ble Members here by one or two points more. Before I proceed to the subject, I would respectfully request this Council to be kind enough to remind themselves of the learned report submitted by Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon while he was the Food Production Officer of this State. Though I am not in possession of details about that, from certain places I could understand that there are many useful, helpful, and constructive suggestions contained in that report submitted to the Government by an officer deputed by the Government after elaborate enquiry, and from no less a person and a pen than of Mr. Achyuta Menon, whose learning powers of research and administrative capacity will never be questioned by this Government.

Mr. K. S. Panikker *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram):* Research in what way?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* It is for the Hon'ble Government to enquire and not for me.

In that connection I am told that the present Hill Paddy Scheme is one of the many recommendations made by him. Food Ration Scheme and the Control Scheme are also part of that report. I speak subject to correction. I submit that if the report is confidential, I do not request the Hon'ble Government to place them before this House. But it is my humble submission that the Government will be pleased to make this House and the public aware of the suggestions contained in that report so far as may be within the purview of the confidential cover.

Next, I would come to the question in hand, and in that I would supplement the suggestions made by the Hon'ble Members by a simple suggestion that in the matter of purchase of paddy, the discretion of deciding the quality of dry paddy and wet paddy may not be left to the lower subordinates of the Revenue Department. It is common knowledge, Sir, that in many cases the certificate of dry paddy or wet paddy is granted by the Village Menons mostly at the instance of Masapadies, and if 10 per cent, 25 per cent or 5 per cent can be had as a gain, would it be too much for me to suggest or submit to this House that inclination, temptation to be corrupt in the lower ranks of the Official Members will not be very very far off. If the producer thereby would be gaining a marginal profit in the bargain, will they not be inclined to subscribe their mind to the same. It is my respectful submission to the Hon'ble Government that they will adopt a uniform role to purchase dry grain only, or green grain only.

Next Sir, there is the most inequitable position that the Government measure out this paddy 100 to 125 per cent, with this 25 per cent as depletion for dry paddy. When it is given to the depots the depot-keeper has to pay for the 125 or 105 or 110 paras as the case may be in full. This is shunted on to the consumer who has also likewise to pay the full price. Apart from the very great question of the Government having to shoulder the transit charges, and various other losses incurred in the transaction, it is most unjust, Sir, to saddle the consumer with this additional cost and not grant to the producer the amount that is taken from the consumer. This sort of marginal profiteering, if I may use the word, is something which is most unpardonable of the Cochin Government. The position further becomes worse when we consider the further fact that these drying charges or depletion or by whatever name you may call it, is not given to the benefit of the consumer, We get only the 10 measures for the 10 measures and not one grain more. It is a well known fact, Sir, a most scandalous truth, if I may say so, that from one para of paddy got from these depots when husked out in our house-holds, we get only 3 to 4½ edangazhis of rice. When the ration scheme is strictly enforced, when the grant is barely the irreducible minimum, just starvation allowance for the day—would it not be criminal, I ask the Hon'ble Government, to deprive the humble subjects even of this grant? It is something, Sir, which requires a remedy in the immediate present, since the harvest, the next harvest, the Makaram crop, would be soon ready far before the next Council meets, and before we, the humble selves as representatives of the people, may even make a tentative submission to this House. I would sincerely hope and request that the Hon'ble Government will be pleased to take note of this in all seriousness and earnestness.

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The next aspect I would impress upon the Government is the conduct of the grain purchasing officers. Many of them vie with each other in creating a large quantity of purchased paddy, irrespective of discrimination and discretion. As was pointed out in the morning by one of my Hon'ble friends, the insistence on wholesale purchase of paddy causes much hardship to the tenants and landlords, and in the case of the Devaswam tenants, it works the greatest hardship. I know at least of one Hon'ble Member who has suffered under the system sitting on the Treasury Bench. I do not propose to submit the name. If the Treasury Benches do wish to know the details, they can very well enquire. Lands owned by the Mulakunnthukavu Devaswam are well-known for the strictness with which they collect pattom, and when the tenant has sold out the last grain of paddy to the Government, where is the landlord to go for grain to pay the pattom to the Mulakunnathukavu Devaswam, an incorporated Devaswam, in kind? I respectfully ask, if the pattom is not measured out in kind to the Mulakunnathukavu Devaswam granary, they at once proceed for recovery under the Devaswam Rent Recovery Act. The Government may say that a second crop is available and you can pay pattom in kind from that yield. My answer is, where is the landlord to go for his food from Makaram to Kanni. I ask, is it not sheer indiscretion, indiscrimination? Why not trust it to the Hon'ble landlord, why not trust it to the person who has to measure out pattom to the Government? Why not leave it with the tenants there? Cannot the Government see what amount of paddy the landlord has to pay as pattom in kind, and leave it with the tenant? Is it the idea of the Government to see that by a roundabout procedure, the Devaswam Department is deprived of its paddy. Then well and good. Will the Government issue an order to the Devaswam Department asking the authorities concerned that they need not insist on pattom in kind? Then we are all safe. If that is not done, it will be very difficult for the poor tenants. Therefore it will be well if the Government would revise the order which causes very great hardship to the humble subjects everyday. I will not quote instances as they are uncalled for. I would respectfully submit to the Hon'ble Government to take note of this calamitous situation brought about to the detriment of their poor subjects.

The next aspect, Sir, is the compulsion of very very small holders of land to pay up their quota, as I would call it. Persons who cultivate barely 3 or 4 paras of seed sowing land are asked before the harvest to execute *kychits* to measure out 1 or 2 paras of paddy and even less. And with what result? The paddy is measured out and the amount of Rs. 1—6—0 per para is received. The next day he rushes to the Field Officer's bungalow, or whatever other place and applies for a ration card. Why this roundabout method of taking in and giving out, I fail to understand. One para of paddy if left with him, may be sufficient for him for a week or two, and then only he need be issued a ration card to supplement. Does it stand to reason, Sir? I submit it is most irrational, to say the least of it. Ration scheme is certainly good, but the irrational exercise of that ration scheme is sometimes very very objectionable. This, I submit, is brought about by the competition if I may call it so, between the officers trying to get over the other by the attempts to get at or purchase as much paddy or rice as the case may be, simply thinking that the officer will be glorified in the eyes of his superiors. Reason takes leave of ordinary common sense and expediency and the sense of glory and the lustre of being thought the most industrious officer often brings about this sad effect. This is also something which the Government may take note of as a curious phenomenon to be checked.

There is one more phenomenon, Sir, which I have to bring to the notice of the Government. I have heard and I know of instances where paddy was being searched and taken into custody and afterwards returned. I know of a very recent case in the Talappally Taluk where, I do not exactly know the quantity, but it is something on the borders of 1,900 paras, were seized from a very respectable *jenmi* and within 2 or 3 days of the seizure, the very officer who made the seizure was ordered to return the paddy. The reasons are only known to Government and not to me. If they were really not subject to seizure, I respectfully ask why did the officer make the seizure and who is responsible for the cost of transporting the paddy to the depots in Vadakkancheri and for the return of the paddy back to the place from which it was taken? So, it looks more absurd, Sir, that the discretion was not wisely exercised. If as a matter of fact it ought not to have been returned, I respectfully ask the Hon'ble Government, on the Treasury Benches, as to which authority of the Government of Cochin is responsible for this order. If it was a case of improper return, it pains us. We, the humble subjects of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin, do not expect any discrimination of this sort at the hands of the benign Government of Cochin. If it is ration, it is ration and ration alike, Sir. My question in the morning, which I respectfully submit to the Government to take note of, was framed, and may be read accordingly, was a humble submission made in a transluscent form

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I say, not transparent of its contents and its implications. I would only respectfully ask and request the Hon'ble Government to note that the implications contained therein are far-reaching, and certainly, to be more candid, resulting in consequences which the Government may not be prepared now to prevent. I would request that it requires all the strenuous powers, all the influence, all the coercive steps the Government may possibly think of to bring it into effective success. Fear or favour should not stand in your way, since the stomach is at stake, and nothing more. It is well known that there is nothing in this world that inanimate "receiver" fears. The head may fear a number of authorities, but never the lower part of it. In that view, it is incumbent upon the Government to see that this sort of trafficking, I would say, in the exercise of authority is not tolerated to any the least extent. The instance I mentioned to this Hon'ble Government is only one among the many. I know of at least half a dozen instances in the Talappalli Taluk itself and since I am not in touch with the other taluks, I am sorry I am unable to say what is the position in other taluks. The Director of Food Supplies, I hope, will certainly be aware of all these, and if he wants to know full details. I request that he may be good enough to address the grain purchasing officer in the Talappalli Taluk, the Food Grains Tahsildar. Well, Sir, it is not only a criticism upon authority. It is something demeaning to that officer appointed with powers to seize paddy. From a certain locality he takes some paddy into custody and after 2 or 3 days, the same distinguished officer is flying about to get some old paddy, or any kind of paddy, to be returned to the original owner. The sight is very pitiable, Sir.

Upon the other points about food control and rationing, I would only submit that this Hon'ble Government can with a little more vigilence in the matter of approaching the other Governments see that they get a better quota from the Madras Government. We have got a most reasonable and equitable argument to be advanced so far as the Madras Province is concerned. We are not luxurious in the matter of fuel, Sir. We know how Ernakulam is now mourning for fuel and groans are heard in the Chalakkudi Timber Depot and even in other places. Even in the Talappalli Taluk, in Vadakkancheri, which is only 6½ miles away from the forest, where we were getting fuel at Rs. 2 or 2—8—0 per ton, fuel now costs about Rs. 16 or 18 per ton—not for the one ton put on the notice board, but for one full ton. I see the Conservator of Forests smiling, but I say, for one full ton of fuel, we have to pay Rs. 16, in view of the fact that we have taken upon ourselves the responsibility of supplying over 6,000 tons of fuel to the Madras Government at the control rates prevailing there, *i.e.*, Rs. 15 and odd, if I am correct.

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests):* On a point of information, Sir: Government have not undertaken any contract.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* It may be the Government contractor. I know as a matter of fact that the contractor has put on the notice board in his shop Vadakkancheri that one ton of fuel costs Rs. 8. I am referring to that. If the Government have nothing to do with it, I beg to withdraw that statement. I have found on the notice board that the cost of a ton of fuel is put at Rs. 8.

To come back to the trend of the discussion, 6,000 tons of fuel are taken I think on contract and supplied to the Madras Government at the control rate of Rs. 15 and odd. If our Government request the Madras Government to be so benign, so good and so courteous as to give us some more quota of rice, I think we will get it. They have got surplus rice and we are supplying them with fuel. Will the Government of Madras be so hard and without heart as to refuse our humble request? I submit that they will not be and they will not dare to do it. It is left to the Government by persuasion or by any other means to approach the Madras Government, and obtain what is available. It is very plain, Sir, that the quantity left at our disposal here from the very beginning of the rationing system has been miscalculated. Depending only on the State Manual, written about three quarters of a century, or half a century ago, by Mr. C. P. Achutha Menon, Secretary to the Diwan, the Government miscalculated that we have got enough food for 8 to 9 months. Slowly and surely wisdom dawned upon us and it was revealed that population has gone up and the area under cultivation has gone down and so the calculations in the State Manual and the reports of Mr. C. P. Achutha Menon cannot be relied upon. It was since thought that we had food for 6 or 7 months and we have now got the figure as 5 to 6 months. I do not know whether these figures are correct. Then, I would ask, how can there be the necessity for the existing ration scheme, if we have got sufficient food. Now rice is given only for 3 or 4 days in the week and that only half of the original quantity. In that case it may be seen that our available stock can outlive the year. Still we hear the Cochin Government again and again reiterating

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that we have not got sufficient rice to take us through the year. Is it that the calculation is wrong, or is it that through miscalculation, a mis-statement is made. Anyway, you claim one way and the effects are otherwise. In the near future we may have facts and figures which can be relied upon, if not as absolutely correct, at least approximately so. These humble suggestions are not thrown out based simply upon imagination. My statements are based on facts and figures till now seen in papers. I don't want to take up any more the precious time of the House or to tax the Government with a long submission detailing upon these facts. I would respectfully submit to the Government to take note of the defects and to remedy the same as far as is possible.

Mr. K. T. Achuthan *(Ezhuvas-Talapalli)*: I wish to add my own little quota to the discussion. About rice and paddy, I think almost all the points have been exhausted. I may stress upon tapioca. I think that we have recognised that tapioca is a very essential substitute for rice in these days of rice scarcity. The Director of Food Supplies has remarked once that in places where raw tapioca is available the feeling of scarcity of rice is not felt too much. So it is my suggestion that the Government should see that the people get raw tapioca in all parts of the State and take suitable measures for the sale of raw tapioca in the fair price shops, so that people may not feel the scarcity of rice and its high price and may have full satisfaction also. For this purpose the present order may have to be repealed. Government may take statements from the cultivators of tapioca earlier and distribute the localities so that from certain localities tapoica may be taken to such and such fair price shops and thus if a distribution throughout the State is made, I think, the difficulty can to a very large extent be lessened, and much advantage can be achieved. I know the Government is taking and will take particular steps to see that tapioca is not exported to Trrvancore or British India—even now as already remarked I know tapioca is being smuggled to British parts; even with the greatest care bestowed by the officials as well as the interest displayed by the non-officials tapioca is being exported. If that point has been seriously considered by the Government, I think before tapioca is raised next time (between Edavam or Mithunam) some arrangement can be made for distributing raw tapioca throughout the State in all fair price shops and thus the food problem can be solved to a certain extent.

Then with regard to sugar. In Municipalities we understand the Government have given a higher proportion than in rural areas. Though the principle may be that in Municipal areas people may have the habit of drinking coffee or tea more often than in rural areas, I am now aware there are very many families in rural areas having the same habits of life as in urban areas. So Government must see to that that these people also get atleast the same quantity of sugar that is rationed in urban areas.

Then about licences. I understand that the Government occasionally will reduce the price of things and will ask the licensees to sell articles at those rates. So Government will have by necessity to pay them the difference of price for the article which have not been sold out to the consumers but which they have purchased from depots. If Government take particular care to see that these licensees are compensated the complaints from those people can be avoided. Complaints are also heard, Sir, that articles are not issued from the depots with due care and that the purchasers who go over there are detained unnecessarily for a long time. Government must take particular care that depot-keepers and officers connected with the depots are properly checked. There are many rumours prevalent in the country and I hope that the Director of Food Supplies knows on what these rumours are based, that he would take proper action to check his subordinates by surprise visits and similar supervision. I have nothing more to add.

*Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: The resolution which has been under discussion before this House is of the deepest interest and vital importance and it is my bounden duty to contribute my humble views on the subject. The existing system of grain purchase is to say the least generally not of a politic and natural character but of inequity and democratic arrogance and irrational exercise of power. The results are revealed before this House in unmistakable terms by elucidation during question time. To quote one instance I got reliable information that a very respectable gentleman of Palayannur, who voluntarily offered 130 cart loads of paddy, but his house was searched. The authorities thought that since he gave voluntarily so much he might be hiding more in his house and so searched his house, in his absence. Ladies of the house protested and requested the authorities to wait for a few minutes so that the master of the house may come. They not only did not abide by their request but also entered even in the kitchen.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: And polluted.

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Yes, polluted! And not only that, they searched the houses of his relations also, but they could not get a grain of paddy. They cannot distinguish respectable people and cunning smugglers. In another instance they went to a smuggler's house. He has two granaries. One of the granaries was full of grain, and this cunning man showed the authorities another granary and protested that he had nothing to give. At last they sealed the granary and went away. The man knew that they won't come back for a few days and he disposed all the grains. After a few days these people came leisurely and opened the seal and found to their suprise that it was all husk.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: That is professional smuggling.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Yes. The authorities could not understand the smugglers and the respectable people.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam)*: Can't they distinguish between husk and grain ?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: They can't distinguish between grain and grain and much less between husk and grain.

The remedial measures I submit is the entertainment for this duty of persons in touch with agriculture and agriculturists who alone can use and exercise wise and practical discretion.

The next point I would urge on the Government is the necessity of enforcing a more equitable distribution without fear or favour. The third but none the less important is the removal of the true impression on the public mind that the Government are making a most unreasonable marginal profit at the expense of the consumer and coversion of the producer.

I have to point out another instance also: to make a request which was mentioned by the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri. We have got plenty of firewood and we have no rice to cook. Madras Government has plenty of rice, and they have no firewood to cook with. So as was pointed out fire wood may be exchanged for rice *(Laughter)*.

Finally I would submit that Government would do well above all to entertain in the Department, even at increased costs, persons of integrity, un-impeachable character and reasonably above corruption. I leave these suggestions for the kind consideration of the Government.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam)*: Sir, at this late hour I may be permitted to make a few observations on this very important problem of food supply and control measures. The first thing that I have to mention is the well-known fact that the quota of rice which we are getting is not sufficient. The allotment of rice received is much less than the allotment of rice that the places in British India are getting. We have only a few ounces of rice per head while in British parts the quantity is in pounds. In this connection I draw the attention of the House to the fact that we are responding heartily and are co-operating whole heartedly in war matters. In the last Budget Session the Diwan President gave us figures of the enormous manpower that is being drafted from our State for war purposes either by way of labour or by way of serving in His Majesty's armed forces. When we are responding so heartily and co-operating so whole-heartedly, why should not the authorities in British India give us the necessary means of sustenance, I mean at least to a larger extent than what is now conceded to us. Our rationing scheme, Sir, I should think is comparatively a very successful one. Whatever little be the quantity that we have got, my impression is that this scheme is working very successfully and I do not find anything to complain on that account. In the higher ranks of service in this Department and even in the lower ranks the officers may be a little over-strict; and they may even commit blunders; but all that is done, I presume, in good faith. I presume that they do so because they want to be vigilent, strict in the strictest sense of the word, and, therefore, somtimes such instances happen, which the Hon'ble Member, Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar alluded to. Such instances are not committed owing to *mala fides* but in good faith. Our officers have a high degree of integrity, they are honest, they are righteous and if there happen mistakes, they are due to their excessive zeal. I give credit that these blunders, if any, were committed in good faith, and I certainly pay a tribute to the high standard of integrity and character that is maintained in the rationing department.

Sir, however, there are certain difficulties which I would try to point out; perhaps these are already pointed out. There are certain things which can be had easily and even abundantly, but, which owing to some slackness on the part of the Department, are not brought promptly or as quickly as it is possible to be done and in sufficient quantities. I will allude to one commodity, *viz.*, the cane-jaggery, which is a commodity that is largely in demand in our State, not only in the towns, but probably more so in the Villages. We want this for making very many sweetmeats. This Sarkara (ശർക്കര) forms an essential ingrediant in our sweetmeats, and

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owing to the dearth of white sugar, this substance has been more in demand. There has been scarcity of this commodity here, while large quantities of it were being accumulated in Travancore ready to be exported into our State. I have personal knowledge, Sir, of the fact that large quantities of this stuff were accumulated in the markets of Travancore and merchants were only waiting for sufficient facilities to have the stuff brought into our State. Ernakulam was crying for the stuff while a little beyond the frontier lots of accumulated stock were being piled up. Several Travancore merchants who could have brought the stuff applied for permits to the Travancore authorities and replies were received saying that the list from Cochin had not been received. I don't know what this list was, but I presume it was a list of permit holders or licensees.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I suggest that no references may be made about the conduct of the Travancore officers.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* Did not the Director of Food Supplies receive a telegram sometime back from the Food Commissioner, Travancore, asking to expedite the list of permit holders in Cochin ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* Did you send a reply ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* My information comes from the merchants and not from the Government of Travancore. The merchants' information was that the list was not received from Cochin. In the meanwhile stocks were accumulating and there was no reply from this side. In the meantime any amount of cane-jaggery was available in the Travancore markets, while here people were crying for it. The Travancore authorities were waiting for the list from here for months and months *(Shame)*.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* There was some difficulty regarding the procedure to be adopted and some correspondence had to be undertaken and I had to go to Trivandrum for a Conference and matters were then decided.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam:):* I do not know what the up-to-date arrangements about these are. I find that even now the arrangement that has been made between the two Governments is more conducive to the benefits of the merchants than to the people. I think in the interest of the public this matter must be looked into closely, when we find that there are markets from which we can bring a commodity, why don't you do away with old practices and take methods that cause delay in correspondence. One Government had to wait a long time for our list and sent reminder telegrams.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Shame, shame.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* And by the time arrangements were made the jaggery evaporated from the market ! *(Laughter)*.

Another point I have to say is there must be some basis for the complaint that in some places there is usual or unjust disparity in the distribution of ration cards for rice among the licensed shops of our State. There may be some disparity due to the disparities in population, but there are several instances in which the disparity in the number of cards is not based upon the disparity in population. One instance that has been brought to my notice is the instance of a neighbouring locality of my place, namely, Vellarpadam. I do not vouchsafe for the correctness of the information.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* These cards were issued according to the wishes of the consumers themselves, we ask them to select the shops; we have very little to do in this matter.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* But is there no restriction that only a limited number of cards will be issued to a shop ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The number of cards actually depend on the wishes of the consumer; it is the consumer who says which shop he likes. The maximum number of cards is limited.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* The next thing is sugar. There is great hardship in this matter. Already this question has been ventilated here. But there is the general difficulty that all over the State we do not get the same quantity. In the Ernakulam Municipality, I find that sugar is given only to weekly card-holders and no sugar is given to those holding daily cards. I do not see, Sir, why a man holding a daily card should not get sugar. Such difference must not exist. My information is that in the Ernakulam Municipality, the holders of daily cards are not given sugar at all. Is my information correct ?

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Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I have explained this question. It is not quite correct. It is to avoid abuse of purchase of sugar that in the case of daily card holders some discretion is made.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* The holder of the daily ration card does not get sugar in Ernakulam. There is also another point worth noting. Some people who are entitled for weekly cards prefer daily cards, because if the quantity of rice received in one week is bad they have to use that bad rice throughout the week and so they prefer to have daily cards. That is also happening.

Deputy President: If they get daily cards, they will not get sugar.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* No. For the sake of good rice, they are even prepared to forego sugar. This matter may be looked into. I find no difference between a daily card-holder and a weekly card-holder in the matter of consumption of sugar. Both require sugar. Even a ricksha walla should have a cup of tea; even a cooly must have his cup of tea and all alike require sugar, and so this is the case especially in towns.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Why especially in towns?

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians Ernakulam):* All over if you like. All over the British Empire, I may say.

The last thing that I would deal with is the question of smuggling about which so much must have been spoken both in the course of this general debate and previously. It might be admitted that in the lower ranks, that is with regard to Excise peons and such others, there is a lot of corruption. There is no use of closing our eyes to that. There is corruption. It would be foolish to close our eyes to that fact. You hear very often stories of what is happening, sometimes scandalous stories. The other day, the Joint Secretary gave us a list of cases of detected smuggling. I should believe that when cases are detected like that, they would often be petty cases, as Mr. Kumaran Ezhuthassan pointed out. There are three classes of such cases becoming public. There are petty cases; then there are cases that become public; thirdly there are some cases in which the Excise peons or the Police or whoever they may be who take part in the detection cannot agree among themselves as to the share of the spoils. Whatever it is, there is no use of closing our eyes to this aspect of the question. Who is to blame for this corruption? I am inclined to blame the Government, and not these poor people.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Who else?

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* You are paying only Rs. 10, 11 or 12 to a man who has to look after his wife and children, and is it reasonable for the Government to think that such a man can in these days live upon this 11 or 12 rupees? So you are making them corrupt. You are making them work like bulls and buffaloes and still you are not prepared to give them the food that the bulls or buffaloes are given.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Shame indeed.?

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* You stand up and say, don't be corrupt, you stand up and say, be honest, be righteous. You sitting there on the Government benches can afford to do that, drawing fat salaries. You can afford to say that. Sir, a human being is entitled to a living wage. But if you give him only Rs. 10 or 11, if you pay only paltry sums to the men whom you employ and if they fall into the temptation of corruption, blame them not, but let us blame the Government. Government will show up their hands and say, we have no money, if you have no money don't govern; be done with it. Yesterday, when we wanted some dearness allowance, the Government said "we have no money".

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Don't misquote please.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* When I asked on the floor of the House for the last 5 years for some fresh water for the littoral tracts you say, "no money". When I ask such matters, where you ought to cater for the needs of the people, you say, "we have no money". That has been the tradition of our Government. But when you want to build palaces, when you want to have white elephants in the State, when you want pet schemes, you have the money, you don't hesitate. Where does the money come in then from? That has been the general tradition. You have no money to provide for the barest necessities of the people. You don't give your servants a living wage and then blame them that they are corrupt. There is no justification for that. It excites my indignation to think that these people are not paid their living wage. Why should we blame them for being corrupt? If you cannot pay them, don't employ them at all. Sir, these are the observations that I have to make.

Deputy President: The Government Members may have to be given some time to reply.

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മിസ്റ്റർ. കെ. കുഞ്ഞിരാമ മേനോൻ: മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡണ്ട്, സർ, "Price control measures" നുവേണ്ടി സപ്ലിമെണ്ടറി ഗ്രാൻറ് സംബന്ധിച്ച വാദവിഷയമാണു് ഇവിടെ ആലോചനയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇന്നത്തെ 'Price control measures' ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ തൃപ്തികരമല്ലെന്നു പറയുന്നതിൽ തെറ്റില്ല. ഇന്നത്തെ പരിതസ്ഥിതികളും നമ്മൾ അനുഭവിക്കേണ്ട ദുരിതങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നാണെന്നു സമാധാനിക്കുവാനേ തരമുള്ളു. ഇപ്പോൾ നടക്കുന്ന രീതിയിൽ ഇതു് അടുത്ത കാലത്തൊന്നും തന്നെ നേരെയാകുമെന്നു് തോന്നുന്നില്ല. Price control measures എന്നും Preventive measures എന്നും മാറ്റം പറഞ്ഞു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടു പണം ചിലവാക്കുന്ന രീതികൊണ്ടോ ആളുകളെ വെറുതെ നിയമിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടോ യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവുമില്ല. ഇതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടി കുറെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടു മാത്രം കാര്യമില്ല. Smuggling തടയുക, Blackmarket തടയുക, നെല്ലിൻറെ കാര്യത്തിൽ ശരിയായ Commandeering നടത്തുക, സത്യമായും കൃത്യമായുമുള്ള റേഷനിങ്ങു് നടത്തുക ഇതെല്ലാം മുഖ്യ ആവശ്യമാണു്. ഇതിനു് ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനം മാത്രം പോരെന്നാണു് കാര്യമായി എനിക്കു പറവാനുള്ളതു്. പൊതുജനങ്ങളെ വിശ്വസിക്കണം. അവരുടെ സഹകരണവും സഹായവും അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. അതിനു് വില്ലേജ്തോറും മൂന്നു് അംഗങ്ങളും അടങ്ങിയ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി സ്ഥാപിക്കണം. ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നു നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അവരുമായി ആലോചിച്ചു് പ്രവർത്തിക്കണം. അവരുടെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾക്കും ഉപദേശങ്ങൾക്കും സാരമായ ഒരു സ്ഥാനത്തെ കൊടുക്കണം. Smuggling നെറ്റകാര്യം പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ, ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൽ നിന്നു ഇവിടേക്കു് കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത സാധനങ്ങളും കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നു നോക്കുവാൻ ആളുകളും നില്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അവരെതന്നെ ഇവിടെനിന്നു പുറത്തേക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന സാമാനങ്ങളും തടയുന്നതിനു് നിയമിച്ചുകൂടേ എന്നാണു്. ഇവിടെനിന്നു പുറത്തേക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതു് നോക്കുന്നതിനു ചിലരേയും പുറത്തുനിന്നു ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതു് നോക്കുന്നതിനു് ചിലരേയും വെവ്വേറെയായി നിയമിക്കണമെന്നുണ്ടോ?

ഇനി പറവാനുള്ളതു് കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങു് കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു്. ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നു് കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങു കൃഷിചെയ്യാനായി food drive നടത്തി രാജ്യം മുഴുവനും കൊള്ളിവെച്ചു. അതു പറിക്കാറായപ്പോഴെക്കും ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവൺമെണ്ടുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഉണർന്നു. അവനവൻ കൃഷിചെയ്തുണ്ടാക്കിയ കൊള്ളി പറിക്കുവാൻ ഗവൺമെണ്ടനുവാദം വേണമെന്നായി. എന്നുമാത്രമല്ല അനുവാദത്തിനു് അപേക്ഷ കൊടുത്തപ്പോൾ വടക്കാഞ്ചേരി അസിസ്റ്റാണ്ടു് സപ്ലൈആഫീസ്സർ കല്പനകൊടുത്തു. എന്തു"? "He will cut and dry" എന്നു്. Remember the word 'He will cut and dry'. ഏതുകാലത്തു്, ഫ ഫ ഫവുഎടവം ഫാം രു മുതൽ തുടങ്ങിയ എടവപ്പാതി വർഷത്തിനിടയിലാണു്. അവനവൻ വെച്ചുണ്ടാക്കിയതു പറിക്കുവാൻ കൂടി കല്പന വേണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല. അതു പുറത്തേക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതു തടഞ്ഞാൽമതി.

ഈ സംഗതിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഞാൻപോയി ദിവാൻജി Mr. Dixon നുമായി സംസാരിക്കയുണ്ടായി. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഫസ്റ്റ് നിയമസഭാ സാമാജികന്മാർ ഒപ്പിട്ട ഒരു memorial ദിവാൻജി അവർകളും മുമ്പാകെ സമർപ്പിക്കയുമുണ്ടായി. അപ്പോൾ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളും പറഞ്ഞതു് ഇവിടങ്ങളിൽ ധാരാളം കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങു് കിട്ടുന്നില്ലെന്നു് ഫുഡ് ഡയറക്ടർ അവർകളും പറഞ്ഞു എന്നാണു്. അതു വളരെ സത്യമാണെന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞു. വെച്ചുണ്ടാക്കിയ കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങു് പറിക്കുവാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു കല്പിച്ചാൽ ഏതു തരത്തിലാണു് കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങു ഉണ്ടാവുക എന്നാണു് ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചതു്. എന്നാൽ അതിൻറെ ശേഷം ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടേയും ഫുഡ് ഡയറക്ടർ അവർകളുടേയും ആലോചനയുടെ ഫലമായി ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ സല്പം ഒരു ശമനം വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ. പി. കുമാരനെഴുത്തച്ഛൻ: അതിനു നന്ദി പറയുവാനും ഒരുക്കമുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ. കെ. കുഞ്ഞിരാമമേനോൻ: എൻറെ സ്വന്തം അനുഭവത്തിൽ പത്തു വണ്ടി കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങു് കുനംമൂച്ചി എന്നു പറയുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തേക്കു് കൊണ്ടുപോകുവാൻ Permit മേടിച്ചു കൊണ്ടുപോയി. അതു് അവിടെ അടുത്ത ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തുവെച്ചു് വില്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. മേടിച്ചതു മുഴുവൻ ബ്രിട്ടീഷുകാരാണു്. പകൽ മുഴുവൻ അവർ കൊച്ചീക്കാരാണു്. അവരെ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാമെന്നു വെച്ചാൽ അതു വളരെ വിഷമമാണു്. ഒരു അത്തി മാറിയാൽ ബ്രിട്ടീഷാണു്. ഇതിനെല്ലാം Staff വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചതു കൊണ്ടൊന്നും ഒരു കാര്യവുമില്ല. അതിൻറെ നിയന്ത്രണത്തിലാണു് ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതു്. കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങു ചിലവാകുന്നില്ലെന്നു കണ്ടാൽ സർക്കാർ ആയതു് മേടിച്ചു് ഉണക്കണം.

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Smugglingന്റെ കാര്യമാണ് പിന്നെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വടക്കാഞ്ചേരി മെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞതു്. അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് അതുത്തിയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന എനിക്കു് കൂടുതൽ അനുഭവമുണ്ടു്. കൂടെ വരുന്നപക്ഷം ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർക്കു് ഞാൻ അതെ ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുത്തിത്തരാം.

മിസ്റ്റർ. പി. കുമാരനെഴുത്തശ്ശൻ: അതു സ്മഗ്ലിംങ്ങു് ഞാൻ കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. കുഞ്ഞിരാമമേനോൻ: ഇനി ഒന്നു പറവാനുള്ളതു് മില്ലുകാക്കു് നെല്ലു കൊടുക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ. പി. കുമാരനെഴുത്തശ്ശൻ: അതിന്റെ ഉള്ളിൽ ചില ഉള്ളടക്കമുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ. കെ. കുഞ്ഞിരാമമേനോൻ: ചേലക്കര, പഴയന്നൂർ മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ മില്ലുകാക്കു് നെല്ലു് കുന്നംകുളത്താണു് കൊടുക്കുന്നതു്. കുന്നംകുളത്തുള്ള മില്ലുകാക്കു് നെല്ലു പഴയന്നൂരുമാണു് കൊടുക്കുന്നതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ. പി. കുമാരനെഴുത്തശ്ശൻ: അതിന്റെ അടിയിൽ എന്തൊ ഒന്നുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ കാണിച്ചുതരാം.

മിസ്റ്റർ. എം. എം. പോൾ: അതിന്റെ അടിയിൽ ഒന്നുമില്ല. ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തുള്ള നെല്ലുമുഴുവനും അതെ സ്ഥലത്തുള്ള മില്ലിൽ തന്നെ കൊടുക്കുവാൻ സൌകര്യപ്പെടുന്നതല്ല. അതു കൊണ്ടാണു് പല മില്ലുകാക്കും കൊടുക്കുന്നതു്. അല്ലാതെ വേറെ ഒന്നുമല്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ. കെ. കുഞ്ഞിരാമമേനോൻ: അങ്ങിനെ നടന്നുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നെ പറഞ്ഞുള്ളു. ഇതിനു കാരണമൊന്നും പറയുന്നില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ. എം. എം. പോൾ. ചേലക്കരയിൽ മില്ലില്ല. അതു കൊണ്ടാണു്, വേറെ ഒന്നുമല്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ. കെ. കുഞ്ഞിരാമമേനോൻ: എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് ഇപ്പോൾ ശരിയായ ഒരു കച്ചവടം നടത്തുകയാണു്. ഒരുറപ്പിക ആറണക്കു് നെല്ലു മേടിക്കുക, അതു് ഒരുറപ്പിക പന്ത്രണ്ടണക്കോ, ഒരുറപ്പിക പതിമൂന്നണക്കോ വില്ക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ എത്ര ലാഭമുണ്ടാകും. ഇതു് ശരിയായ കച്ചവടമല്ലേ? ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തു നെല്ലു മേടിച്ചാൽ സാധിക്കുന്നിടത്തോളം ആ പ്രദേശത്തെ മില്ലിൽ തന്നെ അതു കുത്തി അരിയാക്കുക. സാധിക്കാത്തതു് ആ പ്രദേശത്തു് അളന്നു് കൈകത്തു് അരിയാക്കുവാൻ കല്പനകൊടുക്കുക. എന്നാൽ അതു വലുതായ സഹായമായിരിക്കും. ഈ സംഗതിക്കു് പോയി ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ മുമ്പാകെ ഞാൻ ഒരു അപേക്ഷ ബോധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

പിന്നെ പഞ്ചസാരയുടെ കാര്യമാണു്. പഞ്ചസാര മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിൽ പതിനെട്ടു് ഔൺസും, നാട്ടിൻ പുറങ്ങളിൽ അയ്യഞ്ചു് ഔൺസും വീതം കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. പഞ്ചസാര അധികം ഉപയോഗിച്ചു് പ്രമേഹം വരുത്തു് എന്നു വിചാരിച്ചായിരിക്കാം നാട്ടിൻപുറത്തുള്ളവക്കു് അധികം പഞ്ചസാര കൊടുക്കാത്തതു്. നാട്ടിൻ പുറത്തുള്ളവർ കൃഷിക്കാരായതുകൊണ്ടു് അവർ രോഗബാധിതരായാൽ നെല്ലധികം കിട്ടുവാൻ വിഷമം ഉണ്ടായെങ്കിലൊ എന്നു കരുതി അതു തടയാൻ വേണ്ടിയാണു് പഞ്ചസാര അധികം കൊടുക്കാത്തതെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു്. വളരെ ബുദ്ധിപൂർവ്വകമായി ചെയ്യുന്ന ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കാതെ തരമില്ല.

മണ്ണെണ്ണയുടെ കാര്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ചാണു് പിന്നെ പറയാനുള്ളതു്. ഷൊർണ്ണൂർ ബ്രാഞ്ചു് ഷെൽ ഏജൻസിയിൽ നിന്നും പെരുതുരുത്തി മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേക്കു് കൊടുക്കേണ്ട മണ്ണെണ്ണ എടുത്തു് വടക്കാഞ്ചേരിയിലുള്ള സെൻട്രൽ ഡെപ്പോവിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നു വെച്ചിട്ടാണു് പെരുതുരുത്തി ഫെയർ പ്രൈസ് ഷാപ്പിലേക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നതു്. അതു് നേരിട്ടു പെരുതുരുത്തിയിലേക്കു് കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു പകരം പത്തു നാഴിക ദൂരമുള്ള വടക്കാഞ്ചേരി വരെ കൊണ്ടുപോയി പിന്നീടു് പെരുതുരുത്തിയിലേക്കു് വിതരണം ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് അനാവശ്യമായ ചിലവുകൾ വന്നു കൂടുകയും തൻമൂലം വിലകൂട്ടി വില്ക്കുവാൻ ഇടയായിത്തീരുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇതു നേരിട്ടു ഫെയർ പ്രൈസ് ഷാപ്പിലേക്കു് കൊടുത്തിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ഇതിലും കുറഞ്ഞ വിലക്കു് വില്ക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. അതു ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല.

ഈ സംഗതികളിൽ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് കാര്യമായ പരിശ്രമം ചെയ്തു് ഓരോ വില്ലേജിലും മൂന്നുനാംഗങ്ങളടങ്ങിയ ഓരോ കമ്മിറ്റി സ്ഥാപിച്ചു് അവരുമായി ആലോചിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിച്ചാൽ മതിയെന്നാണു് എന്റെ ശക്തിയായ അഭിപ്രായം. ഇന്നു കാലത്തു, ഒരു ഫുഡ്

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അഡൈ്വസറികമ്മിറ്റി വെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. ഈവക സംഗതികളിൽ ആ കമ്മിറ്റിക്കൂടി ആലോചിക്കയുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം. ഞാനും അതിൽ ഒരു മെമ്പറാണു്. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള 'eyewash' കമ്മിറ്റികൾ വെച്ചു് ആളുകളെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തരുതെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ഈ കായ്ത്തൊപ്പറി കായ്മായി ആലോചിക്കണമെന്നു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ വിരമിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. Ephraim Ouseph *(Narakkal)* : Sir, I congratulate the Government on the creditable record they have shown in handling the food situation. A meed of praise and appreciation is due to the Government not only as a matter of courtesy but also as a matter of publicity, especially outside the State. A neighbouring administration with its usual brilliance in propaganda has heen able to gain a great deal of credit outside the State and that credit goes a long way in our cause against the surplus provinces and in our demand upon the Central Government. There has been a unanimous feeling in the State that the Government must make repeated and strong representations to the Government of India to raise our ration to an all India level and to allot our quota from South India basing our claim on our splendid achievements in war efforts and the extent of our scarcity, and above all on our administrative achievements in the rationing of food stuffs. We ought to make it better known outside, that ours is the only administration in India which has really introduced comprehensive and universal scheme of rationing of foodstuffs, including the rural areas, with a real short supply.

An unanswerable case has been argued by my Hon'ble neighbour the Member for Kanayannur that the Government cannot liquidate their losses incurred in their transactions and purchases from the distant provinces, by shifting on that loss to the shoulders of the producers of paddy within the State. What relief ought to be given must necessarily depend on considerations of expediency, on the budgetary position of our State. In any case, some relief must be immediately given. Otherwise food production is bound to suffer.

An important point that has been fairly unanimously expressed in the House is the treatment of the primary cultivator, the unfairness and the discrimination shown against him in several matters—in refusing to allow, in necessary cases, provision for wages and personal consumption, inordinate delay in paying for the paddy acquired, appropriating 25 per cent margin made on the purchases of certain types of tail paddy, the oppressive methods used in exacting kychits, the vertual immunity of certain estates in acquisition and several other things. To a certain extent we agree that some of the abuses are bound to exist; but something more can be done, if the Government is willing to make a real drive against the increasing volume of executive corruption in the State. We, Sir, are used to a very high standard of official honesty in this State compared to the other parts of India and the tradition and the heritage of official integrity of the State, the work of generations if once lost, is bound to become chronic; and in future times, it is bound to be a great drag on any kind of progressive administrative measures. This drive against corruption might take different forms. I have no time to go into details. It might take the form of setting up special tribunals, or of extending our investigation department and several other things. There has been a general agreement on the point that an increase in the well-paid inspecting staff will be quite worthwhile in this connection.

Another point on which there has been a fairly unanimous non-official agreement is the matter of taking the representatives of the public into greater confidence. A more usual practice of consultation is desirable especially in matters of departure in introducing controls. I can give an instance in which a public consultation would have avoided difficulties in a matter like the control of prawns for which the entire market was Burma, a thing which has really no market at all within the State. It would have got a fairly tolerable price outside. Now the producers have left off fishing in a large number of cases thanks to certain control measures. The reply on this question by the Government side during the debate on the budget was that they were willing to give very liberal permits in this matter. If they are going to be so very liberal, what is the point in having a control at all ?

Before I finish I want to make a personal appeal about the littoral areas. In these arid, sandy areas, because of the great scarcity of paddy cultivation, the poor people, for whose special benefit we have introduced this ration, are getting only about a fortnight's ration from the agricultural operations whereas in other parts of the State they are getting 3 months' rations from the various agricultural operations specially the gathering in of the harvest. So that the ration that we give to the other parts of the State, is only a supplement; whereas in these littoral tracts this is the entire supply that they have. Hence, I submit that there is a real case for the poor people in these areas, where there is very little paddy cultivation, to get a larger

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ration, and I appeal to the Government as well as to the public representatives from the surplus areas to come to our rescue and to consider this demand sympathetically.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Before I deal with the specific points raised in the course of the debate, I wish to make a few general remarks. Government do not think that there are no defects whatsoever in the control scheme and the rationing scheme that are being worked here. Government fully realise that.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan*(Vadakkancheri)*: May I humbly request that the reply may be made more audible?

Mr. M. M Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Government only claim that they are taking all possible steps to see that the scheme is worked out in the best interests of the people and with as much efficiency as possible. Government are always anxious to know the opinion of this House from time to time as to how the several measures relating to food control are being worked out, and they have always given and will continue to give very careful consideration to the suggestions made in this House. Government are also thankful to the Hon'ble mover of this motion and to the other hon'ble members for the appreciation shown by them of the efforts made by the Government and their officers in dealing with food control measures and interest they have shown in pointing out the various defects that were seen in the actual working of the scheme. In this connection I shall be failing in my duty if I do not speak a few words by way praise about the vast number of officers who are working under me in the department for grain purchasing work. On them fall the burden of the task, the most difficult portion of the work—especially on the superior officers who are working and watching, both day and night untiringly in season and out of season with all enthusiasm and the success achieved is largely due to their interesting efforts. If defects exist or irregularities sometimes fail to come to our notice, it is because of the magnitude of the task and also of the difficulties which are insurmountable. I may assure the Hon'ble Members that we will in future be making greater and more strenuous efforts for remedying these defects and producing better results.

Now, let me come to the main points, dealt with by the Hon'ble Members in the course of the debate. Within the limited time at my disposal it may not be possible to deal with all the points covered by the discussion.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Not expected.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: I shall briefly refer to some of the main points. The motion as amended is as follows.—"To raise a discussion on the defects of the existing food control measures and to point out how the control measures can be made more effective, and also to bring to the notice of the Government the urgent necessity to reasonably enhance the price paid by the Government to the producer under the commandeering scheme but without enhancing the price of paddy sold to the consumer". I may assure the House that all the points brought in here will be borne in mind and all the suggestions made given effect to as far as possible. The resolution is in two parts, and the first part comes under two heads—(1) defects under the existing food control measures and (2) how the control measures can be made more effective. Regarding the first, one major defect pointed out is that the control measures are not satisfactory in that they are not enforced with sufficient strictness. Now, the figures furnished to the House yesterday by the Hon'ble Joint Secretary to Government and the Hon'ble member for Police reveal that, in all, the cases detected come to 1079 in the years 1118 and 1119 till now and out of this, 584 were charged and 417 ended in conviction, the withdrawals being only small in number. In answer to this, it was attempted to be pointed out that most of these cases are petty cases. Several Hon'ble members seem to have drawn an inference from this that because in all those cases the property involved was not much, the bigger offenders were let off and the poor people were made to pay the penalty. I assert that that inference is entirely wrong. It is true that in a majority of cases the property concerned is small, but a moment's consideration will show that, from the very nature of the things, when there is a vast army of men posted throughout the country, both by this Government and the neighbouring Governments, it is not ordinarily possible that there will be numerous attempts made on a very large scale by a large number of people for smuggling the controlled articles. The attempt will only be to remove these things in small quantities, so that detection may be avoided and experience also shows that it is the *modus operandi* adopted by many of the smugglers who smuggle the controlled articles. So the fact that in the majority of cases detected, the property involved is only small, is no argument that the preventive staff is corrupt and is not working properly. It will also be noticed from the figures furnished here that some of the cases detected involve large quantities. In fact, we had figures yesterday of cases involving 100 bags of rice in one case, 112 candy of tapioca in another

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360 bags of green gram, 81 bags of chillies, 97 tons of tapioca and so on. All these cannot be said to be small quantities. There is another factor also which has to be borne in mind. A comparatively large number of the staff employed for preventive purposes is new to the field. Added to that the control measures also are new. So, there is some difficulty in the actual working. Until they get accustomed to the working of these orders, it is only natural that the officers experience some difficulty in detecting cases.

Another point which I have to refer to is this. It has been repeatedly emphasised here that as the pay of the staff is very poor they are likely to abuse their powers and indulge in corrupt practices.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Surely.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: The very fact that we have such a large number of cases detected is proof positive that that statement is not correct. Of course it is necessary that the staff should be adequately paid. But it is not possible for us to have a large number of Excise peons drawing high salaries. In the nature of things it is not possible. What is possible is to have a very close supervision and check over these peons by the superior officers, and that is being done also. From the list of punishments given here, it will be seen that the black sheep are being found out and dealt with properly.

In regard to smuggling, there is a suggestion that it is because the commandeering is not effective we have smuggling, and if all the surplus paddy is taken by the Government, then this staff is unnecessary. However strict and careful we are, in view of the acute scarcity of rice and the desire of the people to get it at whatever cost, it is only natural that there will be temptation for people to sacrifice their own needs and to sell clandestinely by smuggling paddy outside where better prices can be had. So that, the fact that there is some smuggling going on is certainly not an argument that there is no necessity at all for a preventive staff. In this connection I can assure Hon'ble members that Government are really anxious to see that the blackmarket is reduced to the minimum if not wiped out altogether. We are taking every possible step in this direction and will continue to do so by improving upon our existing rules and by enforcing the control measures with the greatest rigidity.

I next come to the method of commandeering. There was a constructive suggestion put forward here. It was that there should be a kind of uniformity in our system, that there should be some rigid rule by which each man should be made to pay in proportion to the extent of the land owned or cultivated by him in which case there would be more certainty and greater chances of realising larger quantities of paddy. I may point out that that system was considered by the Government and it was thought that it will not work satisfactorily. It has been tried also in other countries and our information is that it has not been successful. What is feasible is only to proceed on some broad principles and then deal with each case upon their individual merits and that is what is being done. I can also say that, looking to the results achieved, we can make bold to say that, in view of the serious damage that the crops sustained in successive seasons, our purchases have been fairly good also. In this connection, there was a suggestion from some quarters that we are rather over-strict with the poor while we do not deal strictly with the big jenmies. The Hon'ble Member for Nellayi has given a reply to that, by referring to certain cases where we took action which will show whether we are sparing rich jenmies and whether we are not trying our best to get paddy from whichever source possible. I can say for the information of the House that we had occasion to seal the granaries of several jenmies of various classes and communities, so that we have not spared anybody. We have taken all possible steps within our power to secure as much paddy as possible.

Then there was a suggestion that it would be better if we try to confine the distribution of paddy to be commandeered from one place to that local area itself thereby avoiding unnecessary cost of transport. Of course, if that can be done, it will be an ideal state of affairs. But, in view of the low stock position and also on account of the fact that in some areas there is no paddy production at all, whereas some are surplus areas, it is necessary to move stocks rapidly from place to place. So that it is only possible to collect whatever paddy that we can purchase at convenient centres and then distribute it from there.

Another objection was that the major portion of the paddy we purchase is not converted into rice in the same locality. In this respect I submit that we have got mills only in some of the important centres. Paddy, as soon as it is purchased, is immediately taken to these mills and converted into rice. That is why the suggestion thrown out by some Hon'ble members cannot be accepted.

The next point raised in the course of the debate was that the paddy we are purchasing is of inferior quality. The incident referred to by the Hon'ble Member for Chittur was with

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reference to the purchase of the varthuvitha paddy. That paddy was purchased in the rainy season. We made all arrangements to dry it up and we arranged with a mill in Pollachi to mill it into rice. But by the time we took a few cart-loads of paddy there, plague broke out there. Then we had to take the paddy to other places.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam)* : On a point of information: I was not at all referring to your commandeering of varthuvitha paddy but I was speaking only in a general way. Whenever your subordinates take measurement of paddy, they take it only of part-dried paddy and then give receipts recording that it is fully dried paddy. It is so always and everywhere in the State.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: We have taken care to see that we purchase only paddy well-dried.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)* : What if we exchange all the varthuvitha paddy with the Madras Government and buy paddy from Pollachi and Coimbatore?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Of course, we will have no objection if the Madras Government will agree.

So that every possible attempt is made to see that paddy does not get germinated. But some times it so happened that, due to excessive rains during the closing months of 1118 and the early part of 1119, a portion of the paddy deteriorated.

Objection was taken as regards the quality of imported rice also. Regarding imported rice the complaint is that what we are getting is not of good quality. Arrangements have been made to inspect this rice at the source of purchase. These purchases are actually effected not by our officers but by commercial agencies who have got some experience in the line. We have deputed our officers also to attend to the purchase and proper despatch of this rice. As soon as the commodity comes here, there is an inspection here also. Whenever the quality of rice falls below the mark we represent to the provinces from where we purchased it, and an attempt is made to rectify it. That is all what I have to say about imported rice.

Then there was a complaint about the Tapioca Control Order. The Tapioca Control Order was introduced because it was found that the tapioca produced in the State was required here badly as a substitute for rice and was leaving the State in large quantities for conversion into flour. So we had to ban the export and restrict the movements of this article. Even then, all devices were employed to defeat our purpose. This year it appears that the production of tapioca has increased and it is proposed that we should relax the restrictions a bit and work our rules more liberally so as to allow a free sale of the commodity all over the State, especially in the raw form. But still it is doubtful whether the time has come for us to do away with the control order—we cannot be sure whether the quantity that is available this year will be sufficient for our needs.

It was suggested that if the Government will not remove the ban on the export of tapioca the Government themselves should purchase the whole quantity of tapioca produced and sell it themselves. There is one great difficulty in carrying out this suggestion. Tapioca is needed mostly in its raw form and in that form it will not last for more than a few days. My friend the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam, was saying that it could be preserved in the raw form for 20 days. That is doubtful. What I have been able to learn is that, in its raw form, tapioca cannot be preserved for more than a few days. So we cannot purchase it in large quantities in raw form. And it is in that form that there is demand for it on a large scale. Then there was the other alternative suggestion to cut it into slices and preserve it in a dried form. Last year, we tried that method but Government had to incur a heavy loss because of the heavy rains and there was not sufficient sale for the commodity in the dry form in all the seasons. So our present proposal is to allow private enterprise to come in and do this business of cutting tapioca into slices, preserve it in a dry form and then sell it to the public. If it is absolutely necessary for the Government to interfere and sell it themselves in a dried form, then that process will be attempted.

Sugar is another controlled article about which some suggestions have been made here. With regard to sugar it may be realised that the quantity we get is about 2,900 tons a year, whereas our requirements, on a very modest scale, is almost 5 times that quantity. It is with this quantity that we have to make the distribution. But we have repeatedly pointed out to the Government of India that the quota that has been given to us is very inadequate and that it should be increased.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Thattamangalam)*: On a point of information I would like to know who first banned the export of sugarcane jaggery, the Cochin Government or the British Government.

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Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* British Government.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Did you make any representation ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* We did make representations, Sir, and we got a quota both from British India and Travancore. The British Government found that a large quantity of jaggery was being smuggled from the Tinnevelly District to the adjacent parts of Travancore and without even giving any opportunity to the supply Board to consider the matter they imposed a ban to stop it. Anyhow we got quota from both.

Mr. M. M. Paul*(Director of Food Supplies):* Regarding sugar, we have recently represented to the Government of India that our quota of sugar should be increased. It is hoped that we may possibly secure a larger quota this year. If that is possible, then the difficulties pointed out with regard to the ration to children, I mean insufficient ration to children, and the rationing in rural areas, all these will be attempted to be remedied. Another complaint was regarding the issue of sugar to daily card-holders. I have already explained that in the course of the discussion. In fact, it is not our idea to deny sugar to anyone who bona fide requires it; but our experience shows that unless there is some restriction, it will simply be abused. We are anxious to see that the quantity allowed as part of the prescribed ration is given to all in urban areas and in rural areas, adults and children and daily card-holders and weekly card-holders. We will take care to eliminate those who do not require sugar for bona fide purposes.

One other thing that requires a reply is the Fish Control Order. There has been some complaint about it. The ban on export of fish was introduced with a view to conserve all the available quantity for the use of our people. For some reason or other, the catch of fish both last year and this year is reported to be comparatively small. So, great care has to be taken to see that we do not send out any portion of the quantity which may be required for the use of the poor people here. With regard to prawns it is a variety which is not much used here. We have taken care to see that a large portion of this particular variety is allowed to be sent out on permits issued, and I do not think there will be any complaint on that score.

Before I finally leave this portion of the resolution, I may mention one thing. There has been a suggestion from some of the Hon'ble Members that the control over the various articles should be entirely taken away or that the control should be limited to a few essential commodities such as rice, sugar, kerosene, etc. I do not think I am expected to deal at length on this point. As the Hon'ble Members are well aware we have tried in the beginning without control. Then as one Hon'ble Member explained, we introduced price control. That was found insufficient. Then we came to commandeering scheme, ration scheme and all the other existing schemes of control. We can also see from the sad experience of countries where there is no food control and rationing that the measures that we have already taken are absolutely necessary to preserve the life of the community.

The Hon'ble Member for Tattamangalam went to the extent of asserting that the price control measures have failed. He also said that he did not think that the various attempts made to check the black-market are necessary. The necessity for the price control is too obvious to need any discussion here now.

There is then the important question of enhancing the purchase price of paddy without at the same time reducing the selling price of paddy. It is but 3 months ago that the Government raised the purchase price of paddy from Re. 1—4—0 to Re. 1—6—0 per para. It was on the 9th September 1943. In a matter like this the important factors to be taken into consideration are the cost of cultivation and the price which the cultivator can get in a neighbouring market. It is after taking these factors into consideration that the Government fixed the price at Re. 1—6—0 per para then. The Hon'ble Members have not shown that conditions have materially changed after then so as to warrant a revision.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Without interruption what is the price per para in Travancore ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Re. 1—8—0 per Travancore para which is equivalent to Re 1—6—10 per our para.

Even now the price obtaining in the neighbouring parts approximates to what is obtaining here. I have enquired now the latest market rates in Pollachi and Tanjure. At Pollachi and Tanjore paddy is sold at Rs. 82 to 92 per cart-load of 70 paras which works out at Re. 1—3—0 to Rs. 1—8—0 in relation to our para. That is the market rate there.

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur):* What is the control rate there ?

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Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It is more or less the same. The Government there do not always sell rice. Sometimes when there is acute scarcity Government issue stocks from the Depots.

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur):* Have they not fixed a maximum selling price?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Sometimes they fix the selling price. It is compulsory only in regard to issues made from Government Depots.

Then another factor which stands against increasing the purchase price of paddy is this. To increase the purchase price of paddy without making a corresponding increase in the selling price will work out a great loss to Government. Even now the price of imported rice comes to about Rs. 30. This is only the average cost. Then taken along with the rice purchased here, the average cost per bag of 162 lbs. is somewhere between Rs. 27—8—0 and Rs. 28. So, we are not making any profit whatever by this rice purchase and rationing. I may also inform the House that even by selling rice at this rate, Government stand to lose something—about 20 lakhs of rupees in the course of one year and if the purchase price of paddy is further raised there would be additional loss. It is a serious matter for consideration whether Government should commit themselves to such a heavy loss.

There is also another factor to which I wish to draw the attention of the House. Regarding some dry grains also we are incurring some loss. Wheat we are selling at a loss and Bajira also we are selling at a loss. All these factors have to be taken into consideration before pressing that a further loss should be borne by Government in selling food grains. One reason advanced by one of the Hon'ble Members is that some people in other walks of life and dealing with other agricultural products are making a comparatively large margin of profit. For example tea estates, rubber estates, cocoanut gardens and so on. I submit it is not a sound principle to attempt to fix the price of paddy with reference to the profits earned in regard to other commodities, because here we are dealing herewith a commodity which is the staple food of the community and which is absolutely essential to preserve the life of the community. In regard to such a commodity the relevant factors for consideration are what is the bare margin of profit that is to be allowed to the cultivator now-a-days in order to induce him to stick to this cultivation, and secondly what is the price that is obtained in the neighbouring markets. If these aspects are considered, I do not think there is any legitimate cause for grievance. I do not therefore think there is any case for an increase in the purchase price of paddy.

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur):* That was not what was stated by me. What was stated was that the loss incurred by the Government in getting down rice from outside and selling it at a lower price should not be shunted on to the shoulders of the paddy cultivators alone. The comparison with the producers of other commodities was made mainly for the purpose of showing that they are in a better position to share that loss than the paddy cultivators. So, if at all that loss is to be shouldered by the paddy cultivators of the State, it must be shared by the producers of other commodities as well. It was mainly for that purpose that the comparison was made. The suggestion was that the Government themselves should suffer the loss so that it might ultimately fall on the shoulders of all the tax-payers and thereby the distribution of the burden be made more equitable.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I may just put in a few words, Sir. It is not at all a case of loss on account of the import of rice from Sind or from the Punjab shunted on to the shoulders of the local paddy producers. It is not a case like that. As a matter of fact, what has been done is this. A fair price has been given to the local paddy and Government have fixed the price in such a way that they may not lose very much on account of the entire transaction. It is not the idea that the loss if any, incurred on account of the import of rice from outside should be borne by the local paddy producers. The local paddy producers are given a fair price, whatever that be. To make this point clear, I will put another suggestion before the House. Suppose the Government decide that they are prepared to find a crore of rupees out of their available balance or by loan to finance this scheme and put down the price of paddy, say at Rs. 1—2—0 or the corresponding price of rice, will the local paddy producers be willing to give paddy to Government at Re. 1 or Rs. 1—2—0 per para?

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur):* No.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Therefore, the point is that the price is not fixed with the idea that the whole selling price should be correlated with the purchase-price of the local paddy. The price of local paddy is so fixed that it is a fair return considering all the relevant factors, the condition in the market, the cost of the agricultural operations and so on. If it is the contention of the House that Rs. 1—6—0 is not a fair price, then that point may be urged and Government will give its thought to it. The two are entirely different—to

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say that Rs. 1—6—0 is not a fair price and to say that Rs. 1—6—0 fixed is so low so that Government may compensate their losses by the import of Sind rice. It is to make this position clearer that I put the other analogy. Suppose Government are prepared to sell at Rs. 1—2—0 and Rs. 1—4—0. Will the local paddy producers be content with 14 annas? No, because that will not be a fair price for the paddy they produce. Similarly, it will not be a fair price if it is raised to Rs. 1—10—0 or Rs. 1—12—0. That is the question which has to be considered from the prices in adjoining areas, the cost of agricultural operations and things of that kind. It is not to be linked at all with the price of Sind rice or with the cost to the Government on account of the import of Sind rice. The two are not correlated.

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur):* If the Government reduce the selling price of rice, that will bring down the price of many other articles, cost of living will be reduced, wages will go down and the position of the producer of paddy will carrespondingly improve, in so far as the demands on his purse will be lessened. Then there will be justification to pay him the lower value for his produce. It is not correct to say that there is no correlation between the selling price of rice and the price at which paddy should be taken from the producer.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Suplies):* Taking the existing rate as it is Government do not think there is a fair case for increasing the price of paddy, because we do not think that the cultivators are not getting a fair margin of profit. If the case is that in the neighbouring markets they will get bigger prices, the question would have been different. That being not the case, where is the grievance ?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* On a point of information. It has been stated that Rs. 1—6—0 is a fair price. If that is so, why certain jenmies in the State who have power to recover the arrears of pattam under the Revenue Recovery Act, insist upon a claim of Rs. 1—8—0.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Please claim notice to that, Sir.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It may be due to a misunderstanding. Some of the jenmies are claiming pattam for a para which has a larger capacity.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Not exactly like that. The para has been standardised by Government and nobody can collect anything more than by the standard para and at the control price, but only one anna more is to be collected for transport for taking it to the jenmy's granary.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* There is another point also. Under the Tenancy Act the pattam can be paid either in money or in kind. If I send a money order, where is the necessity for the transport charges? The jenmy simply refuses the money order. He says, 'pay me in kind or pay me at the rate of Rs. 1—8—0'.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Then there is a claim made by the Hon'ble Member for Chittur that the price of rice with reference to that Taluk should be reduced. I gratefully admit that Chittur people have given us out of this paddy freely and well, at the time of need. They have, in fact, given us a major portion of their paddy. But that is no reason why they should be given a special treatment. There should be equity in the matter of fixing the price in the different parts of the State.

Then it has been suggested that the labour in Chittur is very cheap and therefore the poor people there do not find it possible to purchase rice. This cheapness of labour is advanced only in this connection. In the matter of increasing the purchase price of paddy they say that the cost of cultivation has gone up partly due to increased cost of labuor. What I say is if labour is so cheap there and when labour is scarce in other parts of the country, why not the labour migrate from Chittur to other parts of the country.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* You missed my argument, Sir. What I said was this. The agricultural labour is always paid in kind and during the agricultural operations all the labour is employed. During harvest operations, the people in Chittur are not able to get a single labourer. Only in other months there is surplus labour and it is during that period that they depend upon casual labour.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Then the agricultural labour can migrate during the other seasons.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* You may arrange a bus service, Sir. Their wages are paid in kind in a large number of cases. But, Sir, those wages won't take them throughout the 12 months. Those labourers can fill their belly only during periods of agricultural operations.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* But the agricultural season forms a major part of the year.

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Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* No. Only 3 months.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* You have got more than one crop and there are several seasons in the year.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Only for 3 months, in the year.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The argument that they are getting very small wages and they cannot find the money to purchase rice does not therefore hold good. When their disadvantages are compared with those of the labourers in the other parts of the country, I don't think there is much substance in the complaint.

One thing I forgot to mention, that is about the price of paddy. The House will remember that it was not due to any pressure from the House that we increased the price to Rs. 1—6—0 some three months ago. We increased the price because Government thought that the cultivator should be given a fair margin of profit. I assure the Hon'ble members that we will be watching the situation, and whenever we think that the prevailing price is not fair to the cultivator Government will not hesitate to increase it. In fact Government gave even retrospective effect last time to the increase allowed. But as matters now stand, no case has been made out for an increase. I hope I have met all the important points raised in the course of the debate on this motion.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. President, I am glad that this all important question has been enabled to be discussed so as to raise the level of the Hon'ble House to that of the "Mother of Parliaments". Sir, I am reminded in this connection of the all important debate on the food question of starving Bengal when it was raised in the Mother of Parliaments the other day a description of which had been reported in the Hindu emanating from no less than a person than by the Rt. Hon'ble Dr. M. R. Jayakar. When this all important subject was discussed in that House, out of 615 Hon'ble members including right Hon'ble members, the attendance was ranging from the big number of 35 to the greater number of 53. Therefore, Sir, I have succeeded through this motion in raising the level of this house to that level. Look at, Sir, the empty seats.

But for the kind indulgence so generously extended by the Hon'ble President while a cut motion tabled by me under Supplementary Demand, item No. 6 of the Agenda of the 14th December 1943 was under discussion, the discussion of this motion—this all important motion on the food question in Cochin—and but for the kind intervention of my Hon'ble friend sitting on my right, the energetic Member for Chittur-Tattamangalam, this all important motion would have died a premature death. I was told Sir, that from a corner from which I least expected such a move there was an attempt at torpedoing this all important motion. As the Hon'ble member who indulged in this antic of his is not now in his seat, it will be below my dignity to refer more about it. As the result of an accident which need not now be disclosed in this House I could not continue the debate from the point at which I left while adjourning for lunch last forenoon. But I am not complaining, for the fault was mine though one of accident.

I may take this opportunity, Sir, just to refer to the latter half of the motion whereat I have reached while adjourning last afternoon. That portion relates, Sir, to the increasing of price payable by the Government to the grower of paddy when taking his surplus stock. I wanted to stress and I do stress now that in fixing that price a decent margin of profit, keeping in mind the high cost of labour and the nature of the growers' contribution to the common cause of supplying the paddy in these critical days, should be given to the cultivator. I don't develop the argument. But this in itself Sir, should not cause a corresponding rise in the price of rice sold to the consumer. In this matter the Government should be pleased not to view this as a matter of profit and loss.

Before I attempt to wind up the debate, discussed under the circumstances mentioned above and before I martial my points which I wish in all humility to place before the Government of Cochin this evening for their anxious, sympathetic, quick, rational and realistic consideration as befits the loyal though fat-salaried servants of His Highness Ravi Varma Maharaja, our benevolent Father whose only care is the happiness and prosperity of His loyal and loving children with no distinction of class, creed or area or sex. I wish to inform, Sir, the benches opposite, that this motion which I had the privilege of placing before the Hon'ble House for its anxious consideration is in the very nature and purpose of the motion not to put to the vote of this Hon'ble House. One more thing, Mr. President, that I want to place before this Hon'ble House before I attempt to arrestingly stress the point on which I pray the Treasury Benches to spend their anxious thought is this—that the food problem as observed by no less a person than

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Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, that great Indian and that trusted adviser to His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore, is not going to revert to the position in which it was before the greedy war monger, Admiral Tojo, entered upon his successful *blitzkrieg* which made an easy victim of Burma. Mark you, Mr. President, as observed by that great Indian, Burma would have to be rebuilt before she could start cultivation for the rich paddy fields of Burma are strewn with splinters and Port after Port had been reduced to cinders. It would take years before these could be restored to their original position; for sometime after the war—I pray, Mr. President, let the period be short rather than long—problems would be the same as now.

It is, Mr. President, in this gloomy background that the endeavours of our Government in regard to food have to be tackled.

Let me now marshal the humble suggestions of this House.

1. Annihilate the black markets.....wherever they exist in high quarters of greedy corners.

2. Let not transport vehicles intended for purposes quite different, be used for dealing with balck-market—covered by however great a shadow.

3. Let not a single high place be supplied in kind the rice or paddy for its consumption—Let that too be rationed if necessary at higher rates than those allowed to the poorer of His Highness' loving subjects.

4. Let not preventive forces be recruited in hundreds to watch smuggling, but let them be asked to prevent smuggling, if smuggling persist. But there is no chance for that if numbers one to three above are strictly enforced.

The member did not finish his speech when the House adjourned sine die, *at 5 p.m.*

N. S. RADHAKRISHNA SARMA
Secretary to the Council

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